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Latin America Report



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28 June 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

BARBADOS

- Oil Tests at Canefield Show Promise, Says Griffith
(THE NATION, 30 Apr 84) 1

JAMAICA

- Electricity Rates Increased 54 Percent Effective 1 May
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 19 May 84) 2

- Manufacturers Urge Formation of Utilities Commission
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 24 May 84) 5

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Oil Companies Suffering From Reductions in Trade
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Apr 84) 7

- Amoco Threatens Cuts Unless It Gets Tax Concessions
(EXPRESS, 14 May 84) 8

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- CDB President Demas Discusses Results of Annual Meeting
(Balford Henry; THE DAILY GLEANER, 19 May 84) 9

- Trinidad Manufacturers Rap Jamaica, Urge Bilateralism
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 1 May 84) 12

- Rickey Singh Denies 'Spy' Charges by Barbados' Adams
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 17 May 84) 17

- Colombia Scores Preferential Treatment for Ecuador
(Jose Suarez; EL TIEMPO, 18 May 84) 18

| | |
|--|----|
| St Lucia Hails Trinidad Action on Import Licenses (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 25 May 84) | 22 |
| Trinidad-Tobago, Barbados Agree on Joint Air Service (George Harvey; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 24 May 84) | 23 |
| Briefs | |
| CDB Actions | 24 |
| BAHAMAS | |
| Another PLP Official Quits Party To Join Opposition FNM (Athena Damianos; THE TRIBUNE, 11 May 84) | 25 |
| Government Seeks \$30-Million Loan for Capital Development (Marcia Bethell; THE TRIBUNE, 24 May 84) | 27 |
| Pindling at Youth Rally Discounts Early Election (Anthony Forbes; THE TRIBUNE, 17 May 84) | 28 |
| \$45-Million Housing Program Introduced by Government (Athena Damianos; THE TRIBUNE, 25 May 84) | 30 |
| Six Policemen Charged With Variety of Crimes (THE TRIBUNE, 25 May 84) | 31 |
| Unions, FNM at Odds With Government Labor Policies (THE TRIBUNE, various dates) | 32 |
| Isaacs on Unemployment, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Criticism of Maynard, by Athena Damianos | |
| TUC Opposition to Tax, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Archer Call for Unity, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Hotel Workers' Threat, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Government Delays OK on FNM Meeting Request (THE TRIBUNE, 18 May 84) | 40 |
| Pindling Accuses FNM; Opposition Responds in Release (THE TRIBUNE, 7, 8 May 84) | 41 |
| Charge of 'Sabotage' | |
| FNM Rejoinder | |
| Briefs | |
| Crime Watch Groups | 44 |
| BARBADOS | |
| Negative Trade Balance as Exports to Trinidad Fall (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 7 May 84) | 45 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Wage Issues, Union-Government Contention Continue to Smolder (Various sources, various dates) | 47 |
| Government Pay Bill | |
| Adams on Union Demands | |
| BWU Resolutions, by Frank L. Wolcott | |
| Unemployment Figures | |
| Walcott May Day Address | |
| BWU Offer To Talk | |
| Criticism of Government Priorities | |
| Crime, Arson Worry Police; Public Asked to Help (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 6 May 84) | 53 |
| Briefs | |
| Envoy to UK | 55 |
| Teacher Salaries | 55 |
| Cotton Success | 55 |
| Chicken Prices | 56 |
| BERMUDA | |
| Pembroke West By-Election Won by UBP Candidate (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, various dates) | 57 |
| Broadcasting Violation Charge | |
| UBP Candidate on Hong Kong | |
| PLP Man on Parish Councils | |
| Poll Results | |
| PLP Draft Legislation Offers Election Law Changes (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 26 May 84) | 60 |
| Senate Warned on Impact of Crime on Tourism (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 31 May 84) | 62 |
| U.S. Missile Landing Sparks Questions, PLP Protest (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, various dates) | 63 |
| Issue of Advance Notification | |
| PLP 'Shock' | |
| Demand for 'Advance Permission' | |
| PLP Proposals | |
| Swan Accused of Accruing Power, Dismantling Government (Editorial; THE WORKERS VOICE, 20 Apr 84) | 66 |
| Labor Disputes Settled, But Some Contractors Balk (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 3 May 84; THE WORKERS VOICE, 4 May 84) | 68 |
| Telco-BIU Pact | |
| Employer Exceptions | |

| | |
|--|----|
| Briefs | |
| Swan on U.S. Tax | 70 |
| Rise in Imports | 70 |
| BRAZIL | |
| Guerreiro, Others Opine on Debt Moratorium, Renegotiation (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 5 Jun, 31 May 84) | 71 |
| No Moratorium Seen Necessary | |
| Banker Approves Renegotiation Strategy | |
| Penna: Exports Determine Repayment | |
| Arms Sales Manufacturers, Costs, Markets Reported (JORNAL DO BRASIL, 2 Jun 84) | 76 |
| Naval War Training Maneuvers Off Southern Coast Described (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 3 Jun 84) | 78 |
| BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS | |
| Chief Minister Hails Islands' Membership in ECLA (Cyril B. Romney; THE ISLAND SUN, 28 Apr 84) | 81 |
| CHILE | |
| Communists Attack Political Parties Statute Proposal (Orlando Millas; Moscow Radio Magallanes in Spanish to Chile, 2 Jun 84) | 83 |
| COLOMBIA | |
| Poll Shows Betancur's Popularity Declining (Roberto Pombo; CROMOS, 22 May 84) | 85 |
| DOMINICA | |
| Report on May Day Celebrations; Police Stop NWU (THE NEW CHRONICLE, 4 May 84) | 90 |
| Prime Minister Charles Denies Seeking IMF Assistance (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 May 84) | 91 |
| Briefs | |
| Trade With Jamaica | 92 |
| Increase in Exports | 92 |
| FRENCH GUIANA | |
| Prefect Silberzahn Assesses Issues, Problems, Development (Silberzahn; LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 3 Feb 84) | 93 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Georges Lemoine Answers Questions on Decentralization (Georges Lemoine Interview; LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 13 Mar 84) | 97 |
| Complaints Against U.S., Japanese Shrimp Trawlers (LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 13, 24 Feb 84) | 102 |
| Castor Calls for Licensing Fees, by Elie Castor DOM Secretary Cites Economic Advantages, by Elie Castor | |
| Proposals for Education of Hinterland Population (LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 10, 11 Feb 84) | 106 |
| Immigrant Housing Proposals Reported (LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 25 Apr 84) | 112 |

GRENADA

| | |
|--|-----|
| Ex-PRG Members Accused of Sabotaging Infrastructure (Christabel King; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 24 Apr 84) | 115 |
| Trial of Austin, Others Postponed; Austin Hits 'Invaders' (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Apr 84) | 117 |
| Government Looks to Private Sector To Create New Jobs (EXPRESS, 30 Apr 84) | 118 |
| Briefs Loss of Libyan Aid | 119 |

GUYANA

| | |
|--|-----|
| Outgoing Venezuelan Envoy Urges Peaceful Resolution (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 10 May 84) | 120 |
| Two Brazilian Naval Vessels Schedule 5-Day Visit (SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 29 Apr 84) | 122 |
| Trawler Attacked; Some Crewmen Feared Dead (GUYANA CHRONICLE, various dates) | 124 |
| Hijacking at Sea Defense Force Escorts, by Bert Wilkinson Request for Weapons | |
| Solidarity, Peace Committee Makes Plans for Next Year (NEW NATION, 29 Apr 84) | 128 |
| Burnham, in May Day Speech, Outlines Economic Plans (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 2 May 84) | 129 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| TUC Officials Stress Rebuilding at May Day Rally (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 2 May 84) | 131 |
| Union Rallies Hit TUC Actions, Call for Wage Increases (MIRROR, 6 May 84; CATHOLIC STANDARD, 6 May 84) | 137 |
| Jagan at GAWU Rally | |
| GAWU Resolutions | |
| Other Rallies | |
| Union's Call for Recognition | |
| Denunciation of TUC Rallies | |
| Working People's Alliance Debates Future Policy (CATHOLIC STANDARD, 6 May 84) | 138 |
| PPP Organ Says Cooperative Sector Is 'In Decline' (MIRROR, 6 May 84) | 139 |
| Militia Leader Warns Against Subversion, Sabotage (NEW NATION, 29 Apr 84) | 140 |
| PPP Joins PNC on Bill Cracking Down on Smugglers (Leon Walcott; GUYANA CHRONICLE, 4 May 84) | 141 |
| Counter-Trade Arrangements Said Necessary for Growth (NEW NATION, 6 May 84) | 143 |
| Tennassee, in Barbados, Mourns Local Labor Movement (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 9 May 84) | 144 |
| Briefs | |
| GDF Acting Chief | 145 |
| Cuban Credit | 145 |
| Attack on Union Advisers | 145 |
| New Trade Partners | 146 |

JAMAICA

| | |
|--|-----|
| Seaga Introduces 1984-85 Budget; PNP Raises Objections (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates) | 147 |
| Report on Budget Speech | |
| Ministry Papers | |
| PNP Response | |
| Budget-IMF Linkage | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Government Introduces Food Program; Agricultural Gains Seen (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates) | 153 |
| Outline of Plan | |
| Appointment of Director | |
| Savings, Employment Benefits | |
| Seaga Amplification | |
| PSOJ Boost for Agriculture | |
| Sugar Prices | |
| Kingston Violence Continues To Have Wide Spillover (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates) | 159 |
| PNP Reply to Seaga | |
| Manley Call for Commission | |
| Security Spending Increase | |
| Private Sector Role | |
| Economic, Social Survey Shows Growth Rate of 1.8 Percent (THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 May 84) | 163 |
| Seaga Announces Plan To Establish New Factories (THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 May 84) | 165 |
| Government Approves Divestment of Banana Projects (THE DAILY GLEANER, 1 Jun 84) | 166 |
| Sugar Factories Will Convert To Private Operation (THE DAILY GLEANER, 1 Jun 84) | 167 |
| Banana Association Discusses Plans for Expansion (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 May 84) | 168 |
| Seaga Rules Out Early Election, Will Serve 5-Year Term (THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 May 84) | 169 |
| Text of Ministry Paper on Nation's Foreign Policy (THE DAILY GLEANER, 31 May 84) | 170 |
| Briefs | |
| JLP-PNP Talks | 173 |

MEXICO

| | |
|--|-----|
| PRI Electoral District Assemblies Take Up Reform Issues (EL NORTE, 21 May 84) | 174 |
| Church Study: 'Worrisome' Number of Nicaraguan Immigrants (EXCELSIOR, 13 May 84) | 176 |
| COMAR Report: Ethnic Breakdown of Guatemalan Refugees (Rogelio Hernandez; EXCELSIOR, 20 May 84) | 178 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| NAFINSA Official: Capital Goods Industry in Need of Credits (Francisco Duran; EL NORTE, 19 May 84) | 179 |
| Briefs | |
| Contract for Xerox Circuits | 181 |
| CANACINTRA: Jalisco Industrial Inactivity | 181 |
| ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS | |
| Opposition Leader Moore Eyes Election Prospects (Lee Moore Interview; SUNDAY SUN, 6 May 84) | 182 |
| ST LUCIA | |
| Briefs | |
| CDB Loan | 186 |
| ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES | |
| MNU's Gonsalves Blasts 'Adams Doctrine,' Views Politics (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 1 May 84) | 187 |
| Role of U.S.-Armed Police Force Called Into Question (THE VINCENTIAN, 4, 20 May 84) | 190 |
| Skepticism Over M16's, Editorial Threat of 'Trigger-Happy', by Ken John Need for Different Assistance, by Nora Peacocke | |
| Cato Addresses SLP Convention, Scores Inequality, Poverty (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 8 May 84; THE DAILY GLEANER, 10 May 84) | 196 |
| Call for Antipoverty Measures Resolution on Local Government | |
| Briefs | |
| UPM Attack on Isaacs | 198 |
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | |
| Special Committee Evaluates PNM; Mahabir Praised (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 31 May, 4 Jun 84) | 199 |
| Recommendations for Change, by Clevon Raphael General Council's Report | |
| Developments on Labor Front, Union Activities Reported (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates) | 203 |
| CPTU-Labour Congress Rift Labour Congress on Unity Industrial Relations Changes Protest of Ministry Cutbacks | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Bobb Replaces Bruce as Governor of Central Bank (Francis Joseph; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 2 Jun 84) | 206 |
| Texaco-Union Discord Persists; Protestors Turn Violent (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates) | 208 |
| Disagreement on Arbitration, by Suzanne Morris | |
| Attack on Mahabir's Home | |
| 'Anarchy' Warning | |
| Texaco Personnel Plans, by Mikey Mahabir | |
| OWTU 'No' to Texaco Offer, by Suzanne Morris | |
| Government Official Hits West's Short-Term 'Palliatives' on Debts (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 May 84) | 215 |
| Briefs | |
| Telco, Textel Funding | 217 |
| Telco Loans | 217 |
| Sugar Shortfall | 217 |
| Proposal for 'National Party' | 218 |
| NJAC Commemoration | 218 |

OIL TESTS AT CANEFIELD SHOW PROMISE, SAYS GRIFFITH

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 30 Apr 84 p 24

[Text]

TESTS are now being carried out on the oil well drilled at Canefield, St. Thomas, last month to determine whether it has commercial quantities of oil.

According to Minister of State, Senator Clyde Griffith, three wells have been drilled by the Canadian company, Bow Valley Services Limited, since it started a new oil exploration programme in Barbados last month.

The first well, said the minister, was drilled at Canefield and a service rig has been moved on to this site to determine whether there are any commercial deposits there.

He said: "There appears to be some signs of hydro-carbons at Canefield, but until those final tests are done we will not be able

to say if it would be viable to go further."

Other wells have since been drilled at Lower Parks and Bissex Hill in St. Joseph and a fourth is now being drilled at Gregg Farm, St. Andrew.

Senator Griffith said that it cost \$400 000 to drill each of the wells, with additional costs depending on what other work was done.

Looking at the proposed off-shore exploration programme, the energy minister said that the British company, Cluff Oil, was now formulating a work programme.

He said that the company had a licence to do exploratory work off Barbados for three years. It has been given a date next year by which its seismic work must be completed. The first well must be drilled by a specific date in 1986.

CSO: 3298/850

ELECTRICITY RATES INCREASED 54 PERCENT EFFECTIVE 1 MAY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Electricity rates have been increased by 54 percent effective May 1, 1984, the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon Pearnel Charles, announced yesterday.

The Minister said he regretted that this had to be done, but there was no alternative.

Mr Charles said that 39 percent of the new increase was to be passed on directly to the oil company while 15 percent would go towards the cost of debt-servicing, spare parts, costs by contractors and ancillary costs as a result of the devaluation.

"Let me make it very clear that none of this increase is designed to add to the company's revenue," he said.

The Minister released the following statement to the Press:

"The Jamaica Public Service Company has made great strides in the past four years. Neglected maintenance has been overcome at great cost, resulting in considerably improved efficiency of operations.

"However, due to the increased cost of crude oil and the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, the subsidy to customers of the JPS has now been eroded. Accordingly, the JPS will now have to bear the full cost of its fuel resulting in an increase of 39 percent in its fuel charges to its customers.

"Effect of the devaluation on the company's other foreign-exchange costs will result in an additional increase of 15 percent in the energy portion of its bill to customers. This means that there is a total increase of 54 percent on the customers' bill.

"The projections for 1984 did not envisage vast changes in currency rates, materially affecting primary and secondary costs of operations. This year the company expected to gain its third consecutive year of adhering to targets without a rate increase.

"However, a series of fiscal events affecting the country and the company occurred towards the end of 1983. First was the movement of fuel payments by the company from a rate of exchange of \$1.78 to \$3.15. Secondly, the rate of exchange was further increased from \$3.15 to \$4.00.

"In addition, the cost of repaying the company's overseas debts when these become due were similarly increased. So too, have been the expenses for all external services to the company, spare parts and overseas contracts. All of this has lifted the overall operating costs as at the end of 1983 by over \$100 million.

"You will recall that the Government in December last year granted a \$100 million subsidy annually to cushion the impact of the increase on the customers. This subsidy now has been removed and the Jamaica Public Service Company now has an increase on its fuel bill in the order of 87 percent.

"The rapid and continuous devaluation of the Jamaican dollar produced escalating cost stresses on the company each month resulting in million of dollars, which had to be absorbed by the company without resort to the consumer until now.

"I should pause to explain that one of the reasons the company was able to continue for such a long time (four months during which the Jamaican dollar fell from \$3.30 to US\$1 to \$4.11 Ja. to US\$1) was due to the increased efficiency of fuel used as a result of refurbished units which have significantly reduced the resort to gas turbines and other stand-by plants operating on expensive diesel fuel.

"Unknown to the general public is the fact that the anticipated 40 percent increase across the board in January 1984 has hardly ever gone beyond an averaging increase of 32 percent. This is a small amount perhaps, but nevertheless adding up to millions of dollars of savings to the consumers.

"It is with regret that I now have to advise the inevitable news about increased rates which must have been expected by many people watching fiscal developments in the country.

"This will mean an average increase to consumers of about 54 percent effective May 1, 1984. Of course, the actual monthly percentage will depend on fuel-use efficiency and the cost of the fuel purchased. If the trends in the improvement of the Jamaican dollar continue and the price of oil remains stable, the benefits will of course be passed on to the consumer as usual.

"There is one area of major concern in the use of energy which will shortly be addressed by the Jamaica Public Service Company. The present electricity rates as structured encourage higher use of electricity. This runs counter to the fuel conservation measures. At the moment, the consumers pay less per kilowatt hour the more they use.

"The company will immediately be embarking on a rate study with a view to restructuring the rate so that consumers will be encouraged to conserve on the use of electricity and will pay more per kilowatt hour the more they use and less per kilowatt hour the less they use. This is designed to assist those using small domestic amounts of electricity.

"Let me remind you that 39 percent of this new increase is to be passed on directly to the oil companies; 15 percent will take care of debt servicing, spare parts, cost by contractors and ancillary costs as a result of the devaluation. Let me make it very clear here that none of this increase is designed to add to the company's revenue.

"I feel very concerned because this is a harsh and tough period for us. However, we have no alternative, as the choice is between paying for the supply of electricity and getting no electricity at all."

CSO: 3298/871

MANUFACTURERS URGE FORMATION OF UTILITIES COMMISSION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Text] The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA) is calling for the setting up of a Public Utilities Commission to incorporate the office of the Public Utilities Ombudsman, together with the monitoring unit of the Ministry of Public Utilities, to let the public know what is going on in the power supply field.

In his report to the monthly meeting of the JMA's directors last week Wednesday, the President, Mr R. Anthony Williams said members had been asked to pay for increases for a period for which they should not pay.

He said: "As our members and indeed the general public try to cope with various cost increases, one needs to look at the question of utility rates and electricity in particular. An announcement on the matter was published in the Gleaner of January 1, 1984 and stated that effective January 31 there would have been a 40 percent average increase. However, on checking bills sent to some of our members dated between December 1983 and February 1984 we found that some had reasonable cases to request refunds on their bills. On May 9 we wrote the Jamaica Public Service Company requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Whether the government or the company had announced that the effective date of the increase was January 31, 1984?
2. If so, when this change was made public by the company and/or government?
3. What fuel adjustment factor had been used on the electricity bills for each month between October 1983 and March 1984?

Mr Williams said they had not yet been favoured with a reply. However, they had noted that a senior executive of JPS had indicated that electricity bills would be increased again.

(On Friday, May 19, Minister of Public Utilities, the Hon Pearnel Charles announced that electricity rates would go up by 65 percent).

Mr Williams said: "We do not object to the right of a company to seek increases to cover its expenses and to make a profit. However, this particular company is in a monopoly position. It has great impact on our lives and on the cost of inputs of goods which must compete in the international market. We feel that information on which increases in rates are based must be freely available to the public. When the Jamaica Public Service Company was owned by private individuals and prior to the takeover by government, the company was required to send regular reports of its operations to the Public Utilities Commission. Members of the public had access to these records and reports. In addition, the consumer had the opportunity to participate in hearings on rate increase applications. This is as it should be. We should have an input in the determination of how state-owned public utilities companies are administered. Government recognizing that confidence must again be placed in our dealings with these public bodies appointed an Ombudsman for Public Utilities.

This is one good step, but it has not gone far enough. The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association recommends that a Public Utilities Commission be formed to incorporate the office of the Public Utilities Ombudsman, together with the monitoring unit of the Ministry of Public Utilities. We believe that this Commission should be set up as a matter of urgency and that no further increases be granted to any of the public utility companies until this is done."

CSO: 3298/871

OIL COMPANIES SUFFERING FROM REDUCTIONS IN TRADE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Apr 84 p 4

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
SOUTH TRINIDAD
Chamber of Industry and Commerce has noted that almost all of the service and supply companies operating in the oil industry are suffering from significant reductions in the level of their trading.

"The reduction in business has been so dramatic that not only are the majority of them operating at a loss but some are close to insolvency and others have already reached that stage."

Those observations were contained in a memorandum submitted by the chamber to the Prime Minister, Mr George Chambers when he visited San Fernando recently.

The South Chamber noted that some of those companies have been left stranded with very high levels of inventories which they are unable to turn over and hence bank borrowings and amounts owed to other creditors have increased appreciably.

Those views were compiled by the chamber's energy and natu-

ral resources committee.

The memorandum stated that: "If the present stalemate in the petroleum industry continues for much longer there could be a spate of these businesses having to close down. It is important to note that several of these companies hold large amounts of parts and supplies related directly to the Texaco refinery."

It was stated that positive action by Government on those matters could go a long way to restoring business confidence in the South and help those companies to solve their problems.

Referring to "well information", the chamber noted also that at the present time all well information is protected indefinitely. "This severely restricts companies which are evaluating new prospects in the country."

The chamber believes that if such information is made available, it is felt that the

operating companies will be able to achieve greater productivity and significant cost savings. That situation could only assist the industry and the country generally.

The chamber said: "We are of the view that exploratory well information should be released after, say, three years and production well information released either immediately or for the latest after one year."

Examples of the information which should be released are in the areas of electric log information, production and test information, and geo-chemical data.

The chamber has recommended that well information be made public by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources except possibly in offshore areas where the wells are within leased areas adjoining unleased ones. The chambers believes that this is a common practice in most oil producing areas of the world.

AMOCO THREATENS CUTS UNLESS IT GETS TAX CONCESSIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 May 84 p 47

[Text]

UNLESS Amoco Trinidad Oil Company receives tax concessions from the government, the company will not undertake what it describes as "very significant investments."

Eugene Bertrand, vice-president for public relations for Amoco, said government had not yet acted upon the company's petition for tax relief.

"Until they do so, it is simply not possible for Amoco to undertake the very significant investments that would be associated with a major exploratory and development effort," he said.

The company's two top senior executives, president and general manager, Robert Powers and Bertrand made a case for concessions in interviews with officials of Amoco's parent company, Standard Oil Company of Indiana, United States.

Their views were expressed in the latest issue of "Span", a quarterly publication for stockholders and employees of Standard and Amoco.

The article which was headlined "The Treasure of Trinidad" focussed on Amoco's operations at Point Galeota on the south eastern coast and dealt at length with Amoco's "tax burden", its contribution to the economy and community development and the need for a "regulatory climate."

Bertrand, a former senior official of the Ministry of Petroleum and

Mines (now the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources) said the company's relations with government remained cordial adding that "they appear sympathetic to our dilemma."

Bertrand was optimistic that government will reduce the tax burden which the company now carries.

However, Powers said Amoco felt that it was a "viable and integral part of the overall Trinidadian economy."

He said: "We are working with goodwill to resolve those differences that exist between ourselves and the government and trust that our mutual interests will result in compromises that are advantageous to all."

Powers said petroleum could remain a significant contributor to the country's economic "well-being for many years to come."

He added that "Amoco for its part seeks a regulatory climate that will enable it to contrib-

ute in the future as it has in the past."

To support its case, Amoco said in addition to "high operating expenses" encountered in Trinidad, its tax burden is "among the highest of any country in which it maintains operations."

It added that from the start, the company's local interest had entailed "numerous high-cost elements primarily the result of the area's complex geology and the nature of its producing formations."

Powers said Amoco had contributed more than \$6.9 (U.S) billion through taxes, royalties and levies up to the end of 1983.

"Through its purchase of local goods and services, plus wages and salaries paid to its employees, Amoco has boosted the local economy by another \$6 (U.S) million."

Powers said: "Our commitment to the two-island nation, and I believe theirs to us, has been both firm and pervasive."

"One example is our corporate contributions to community developments such as schools, medical facilities and community centres has been \$1 million (U.S.) over the past three years alone."

CDB PRESIDENT DEMAS DISCUSSES RESULTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 84 p 8

[Article by Balford Henry]

[Text]

According to the President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Mr. William Demas, who was re-elected on Wednesday for a third term, there were two basic points emerging from discussion during the 14th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) which was held in Kingston between Wednesday and Thursday.

"This was probably the first meeting where the issue of structural adjustment and what the Bank can do to help has emerged in the forefront of the discussions," he told a group of journalists at a briefing on the conference Thursday.

The other main point, he said, was the question of how much additional resources the Bank could use: how much more lending could the borrowing members of the Bank absorb, and the possibility of more OECD or Western European countries becoming members.

It was Jamaica's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, who is also the current chairman of the Board of Governors, who channelled much of the discussion into the area of structural adjustment; a subject which he has declared an intention to pursue aggressively at the next Caricom Heads of Government conference in Nassau in July.

According to Mr. Demas, it is only after the July Caricom meeting, before the region will know whether Mr. Seaga will have his way and make structural adjustment the question of the decade for the Caribbean.

But while Mr. Seaga's proposals have merely been accepted for further discussion at the CDB level, so far, it appears that the member countries of the region so far have yet raised no objections.

Surplus of resources

Mr. Seaga suggested that with the addition of new members, the Bank would have a surplus of resources which many of its members would be either unable or unwilling to borrow because of their debt service capabilities.

Therefore, some of the resources should be used to re-finance short-term commercial debt of member countries, instead.

He also suggested the establishment of an Export Development Fund to provide foreign exchange to purchase raw materials for Caricom trade and a rehabilitation fund to finance new plant and equipment.

Speaking on the conference which was attended by three Eastern Caribbean leaders, as well, in Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, Mr. John Compton, Prime Minister of St. Lucia and Chief Minister John Osborne of Montserrat, Mr. Demas said:

"I think all the Governors regarded the meeting as very successful and also very well organised. Everyone was appreciative of the arrangements made by the host country, Jamaica, for the meeting," he said.

Membership

He then went on to a summary of the developments over the two days:

"First of all a Unified Special Development Fund (USDF), as a leading soft-resources Fund of the bank has been established and is now in operation. Most Governors have welcomed the establishment of this new Fund.

"Secondly, all Governors welcomed the Membership of France. In the course of this meeting the French delegate took his place as the alternate Governor for France of the CDB.

On the question of membership and resources available to the members, Mr. Demas said:

"The essential issue was, given the hard economic time most of the borrowing members are going through, whether we stabilize lending at present levels, or whether we should increase our lending. In favour of an increase in lending and therefore more resources and possibly more members, there are two considerations: One, which the Prime Minister of Jamaica made a proposal on, that during the period of structural adjustment the borrowing member countries need additional resources to finance directly structural adjustment programmes.

Commitments

"Another consideration behind the argument in favour of new members was that certain international financial institutions seem to be reducing their new commitments to some of the countries in the region. So, on the one hand, was the argument that there was a need to finance structural adjustment programmes; and, on the other hand, it was felt that because of the difficult situation most economies find themselves in, perhaps, there is no scope for increased lending by the bank and therefore a need for increased resources was safer."

Also emerging from the discussions were the questions of: The role of the CDB in advising the borrowing member countries on macro-economic policies. Most of the Bank's lending in the past had been project lending —lending for specific projects, and to make sure that those projects were successful the Bank laid down certain project conditions.

"This is in terms of a dialogue on macro-economic issues with the Governments, without our trying to ram any political thing down their throats. We got the impression that many countries, particularly the smaller OECS states, would find the on-going dialogue of some use to them."

Housing

Other subsidiary issues were: The question of whether when the Bank lends for projects, it should emphasize the direct implementary sectors or economic and social structure. Several Governments raised the issue once again. The view of the management of the Bank, was that the Bank should try as far as possible to increase lending directly to productive projects in agriculture and industry and tourism. And, it should lend to the productive sectors to a greater extent than it lends to the economic and social infrastructures such as seaports, airports, roads and public utilities.

Mr. Demas said that the issue surfaced this year at the meeting in the form of some of the borrowing Governments asking that more resources be promoted for financing housing: "We do finance housing, but we believe that while we should support housing, that the borrowing member countries should make an effort to mobilise internal resources to be counter-part to housing loans."

He said that none of the Governors opposed Mr. Seaga's suggestions on structural adjustment:

"Speaking for myself, I believe that most of the Caricom countries need a level of structural adjustment. They have to adjust now. Maybe one or two countries need a more severe form of adjustment than others, but they all require some level of adjustment.

Mr. Demas said that the question was not one of either exporting outside the region or not:

Standard of living

"Let's face the facts, with structural adjustment, the standard of living of everybody in the country has to fall: that is a fact of life. Therefore structural adjustment programmes call for very delicate and skilled economic and political management. I believe though that the more needy and vulnerable groups might get some relief, not necessarily that their pre-structural adjustment standard of living should be maintained: They would have to make some sacrifice too. I think some measures ought to be found to some extent to alleviate the hardships for the most needy and the most vulnerable groups."

Mr. Demas was asked whether the peoples could look forward to a much better life having gone through the agony of structural adjustment. He said: "Yes, if the process is successful, if we can change the structure of the economy so that we can solve the balance of payments problem; the balance of payments problem is what we might call a monetary problem, but its basic problem is a production problem — a production and consumption problem."

"There are problems of carrying balance of payments in all the Third World countries. They just can't increase production like that. It has to be efficient so that it can be cost competitive, so that it can be exported and so that it can be substituted with imports, efficiently."

"In other words the key is more production on a competitive basis — that is what structural adjustment is all about. So that you will both increase output and therefore raise the standard of living and have a reasonable balance of payment situation."

He said that because of what happened in the 1970s — including the rise in energy prices, oil importing developing countries somehow had a sharp deterioration in their terms of trade and a big fall in their real income which has become a permanent feature: "Something they are not equipped to reverse. They have got to find ways to compensate for the lowering of their incomes and the lowering of their purchasing power by increasing production of exports and import substitutes."

"In other words it's a kind of forced march towards development, but you have got to move quickly. In other words structural adjustment takes you to a higher level of development, but you have to compress the period because of the permanent changes in the world economy. So you have to do what would normally take 15 years in five minutes."

TRINIDAD MANUFACTURERS RAP JAMAICA, URGE BILATERALISM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 May 84 pp 16, 17

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) has accused a Jamaican manufacturer of "wanting to have his cake and eat it" and according to TTMA President Edward Habib "this is not acceptable to the TTMA."

Mr Habib also stated that in the light of all that was happening in the area of trade in the region the "TTMA views bilateral agreements with its Caricom partners as the only viable solution to trade in the future."

He made these observations in the wake of repeated local and regional calls for the normalisation of trade in Caricom in a document titled "An Update on Caricom."

Mr Habib confirmed that his association strongly supported the position of the Trinidad and Tobago Government as expressed by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Mr Desmond Cartey when he addressed the TTMA at its annual general meeting several weeks ago.

The document is seeking to clear the air and to put in "accurate perspective, the trade impasse currently existing in the Region."

The TTMA statement reads:

In recent weeks there have been several calls, both locally and regionally, for normalisation of trade in the Caricom region. These comments followed upon an address by the Minister of Industry, Commerce & Consumer Affairs, at the annual general meeting of the TTMA on Wednesday, March 28. Some of these calls implied that Trinidad & Tobago should take the lead in restoring trading relations within the Community, and one Jamaican manufacturer was even quoted as having said that the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, in Trinidad and Tobago was influenced by a small group of Trinidad manufacturers to implement measures which can only result in the destruction of Caricom.

The TTMA is quite amazed at some of these comments and wishes to state that we strongly support the position expressed by Minister Cartey in his address.

As a result, the TTMA wishes to bring an accurate perspective to the trade impasse currently existing in the region. To do this properly, it is necessary

to divide the region into five parts, Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, O.E.C.S. and Trinidad and Tobago, examining the trading problems as specific to each.

Jamaica

- (1) Prior to January 1983, when Jamaica introduced a parallel rate without consultation with its Caricom partners, Trinidad and Tobago did not have a licensing system for Caricom trade;
- (2) Jamaica on the other hand, introduced licensing systems and other non-tariff barriers as far back as 1977;
- (3) With the introduction of the parallel rate in Jamaica, trade in the region came to a standstill until the Barbados Heads of Government Meeting in May 1983. A Caricom rate of U.S. \$1.00 to J \$2.25 was then fixed;
- (4) Upon resumption of trade, Trinidad and Tobago issued TT \$180 million in licences to Jamaican manufacturers over the same period;
- (5) In November 1983, Jamaica announced a devaluation from J \$1.78 = U.S. \$1.00 to J\$3.15 = U.S. \$1.00, a 43 percent devaluation;
- (6) In December 1983, Jamaica gave an undertaking that they would remove all licences and trade impediments, but nothing was done. Instead, a massive list of items were classified as nonessentials and debarred from imports;
- (7) Because of the severe pressures, the devaluation has continued to the point that the last known rate (this can change weekly) was J \$3.85 = U.S. \$1.00.

The devaluation meant that an item formerly sold by Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers to Jamaica for TT \$24.00 or U.S. \$10.00 and cost Jamaica \$17.80, then \$22.50, now costs the Jamaican importer J \$38.50.

On the other hand, increases in the Jamaican made articles were significantly lower. To further compound the problem, because of continuous devaluations and grave uncertainty as to when goods imported into Jamaica can be paid for a Jamaican importer would be reluctant to import goods unless they were classified as essential or where tremendous profits can be made. The reason being that he would not know at the time importing or selling what the goods could actually cost and would therefore not know at what price to sell. The end result is that he either will mark up the goods so high so as to render them noncompetitive or not to buy at all.

Difficulties

Mr Seaga is reported to have said (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN 84/04/20) in commenting on trade in the Caicom region, "as a trading organisation it does have difficulties that are going to be difficult to overcome."

He noted that Jamaica has a policy of keeping the exchange rate of its dollar low so its exports are relatively cheap abroad. This of course has upset the

traditional balances in costs and has given Jamaican production a decided advantage. There are some countries that are not able to tolerate a change of that level in the competitiveness of the system without yielding up a good part of their domestic economy.

It is likely that this is going to spill over in restrictiveness and other measures that may cause Caricom to be far more restrictive in the future than it has been."

In this light, can the comments of the Jamaican manufacturer be justified? We say they want to have their cake and eat it. It is not clear from the above who has tried to use Caricom for their sole benefit rather than the regional good. We say the Jamaican manufacturer wants to have his cake and eat it, (i.e. have his market and ours too), and this is not acceptable to TTMA.

To sum up the Jamaican situation, the TTMA is acknowledging that:

- (i) Jamaica has a severe balance of payment problem and has to tightly control external payments, resulting in the difficulty in paying its Caricom partners, including Trinidad and Tobago.
- (ii) Because of the Jamaican devaluations, its manufacturers are now far more competitive than others in the region.
- (iii) The once vibrant market of Jamaica is now a small uncertain market which Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers view with great caution.

It seems that the only possible methods for resumption in trade in the short term, are either:

- (a) To counter trade or barter trade between items manufactured in Jamaica, but not in Trinidad and Tobago, and vice versa or
- (b) to arrive at a new Caricom rate to reduce the competitive gain now enjoyed by the Jamaican manufacturer because of the devaluations.

In the medium term, a currency alignment in the region is necessary if the Common Market is to best serve the needs of the Community.

Barbados

The problems related to trade in this Territory can be named as follows:

- (1) The Barbados Negative List wherein ceiling prices on imports from Third Countries are significantly lower than those existing in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (2) Stamp Duty (3%) on all imports including Caricom imports; (not in the spirit of Caricom);
- (3) Despite solemn assurances given in May 1983, repeated in July and confirmed at the level of the Heads of Government, and subsequent reminders by

way of an exchange of notes, discriminatory taxation on soft drinks in cans levied by one country, continues to the extent that a market which had been found and developed for such items for some years, has been closed and remains closed. It is to be noted that this same country imposes a tax of 5 percent per bottle, on beer in disposable bottles, as compared with the .50 cents levied on canned soft drinks.

We feel that if a Regional Negative List and Ceiling Price Regime can be agreed upon along with the removal of other trade impediments, then trading relations with Barbados could improve.

O.E.C.S.

There continues to be a lack of integrity in the movement on the part of several of these territories. And as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated: "It is never the intention that products requiring minimal processing (and in some notable instances, no processing at all) should qualify for Caricom treatment." In spite of several appeals by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago, this continues, to the detriment of industry (in Trinidad and Tobago) and loss of jobs in Trinidad and Tobago to other countries outside the region where the majority of processing takes place.

"Trinidad and Tobago," as quoted by the minister, "has hoped to encourage and it is still our wish, a minimum depth of process to which all industrialised countries within the region should aspire.

This minimum depth of process would save and create jobs in the region as opposed to exporting them. Each of the governments of the countries should undertake to stamp out the irregularities in their territories for improved trading relations to take place."

We suggest that the depth of manufacturing should be the criterion rather than value added which includes profits.

Guyana

This country has suffered severe balance of payments problems for the past five years and is virtually unable to pay for imports. Its export capability, however, has not been affected. We see therefore a possible solution for counter or barter trade only with this territory.

In the above context, unlimited access for Caricom imports into Trinidad and Tobago where a single market is virtually the sole recipient for 80 percent of export production of member territories, cannot be sustained.

It is true that Trinidad and Tobago bent over backwards to honour the Caricom Agreement. It is true that Trinidad and Tobago provided almost \$1,000 million worth of aid, directly or indirectly.

Is it not time for the other territories to take the lead and show their willingness to participate in the true spirit of the Treaty? Why Trinidad and Tobago again? "No!" "No!" says TTMA.

In conclusion, the fact that we have found it necessary to divide the Region into five parts and treat each separately is a clear indication that the TTMA views bilateral trade agreements with its Caricom partners as the only viable solution to trade in the future.

CSO: 3298/833

RICKEY SINGH DENIES 'SPY' CHARGES BY BARBADOS' ADAMS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 May 84 p 4

[Text] Bridgetown, Wed., (CANA): Rickey Singh, the Guyana-born former editor of CARIBBEAN CONTACT, whose permit to work in Barbados was revoked last year, has disputed allegations by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams that he had contact with foreign spies.

Adams was quoted by the London-based publication CARIBBEAN INSIGHT as saying that these contacts "took on a particular intensity at the time of the Grenada crisis"--a reference to the October 19 overthrow of the leftist Government in St. George's and the subsequent U.S.-Caribbean military intervention to oust the army.

The Barbados Prime Minister was answering a question as to why he revoked the work permit of Singh, who was based in Bridgetown, where the newspaper of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) is published.

The permit was withdrawn last November, 21 months before it was due to expire, after Singh wrote a series of articles critical of the invasion of Grenada. Adams played a key role in persuading Washington to intervene to oust a military council that assumed power after the bloody coup.

Adams told INSIGHT that he was giving this latest statement "in the interests of journalists themselves." Journalists associations in the hemisphere had criticised the decision to revoke the work permit.

Singh, in a statement to CANA today, insisted that the decision came because of his "principled stand" in his articles "written...at a period when it was clearly not wise for members of my profession to challenge the powers that be."

He also said that he had refuted at a meeting with Adams last November 9, that any of "my Cuban friends" were members of the Cuban intelligence service. "I said then I had no such knowledge..."

Adams spoke of the Barbados Government's concern at Singh's alleged contacts: "He (Singh) never denied it. He said he did not know they were intelligence officers. But he did not explain how they came to his house in the early hours of the morning, or why he took evasive action when visiting places where meetings were expected to take place."

COLOMBIA SCORES PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ECUADOR

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 84 p 9-A

[Article by Jose Suarez]

[Text] Colombia considers it unacceptable for Ecuador to continue receiving the preferential treatment envisaged by the Andean Pact for relatively less developed countries. According, it believes that the status of that nation should be differentiated from that of Bolivia.

It also considers that, in the area of foreign investment, the transformation regime of Decision 24 (statute on foreign capital in the Andean Pact) should be liberalized and that it is necessary to increase the number of cases in which foreign investment may be accepted in existing national companies in the member countries.

For the current government, within the context and complex situation of the Andean Pact, "it should be asked the national interests of Colombia and the community interests of the subregion could be better served by mechanisms other than those of the Cartagena Agreement."

This last argument was interpreted in Colombia business circles as an insinuation that either the fundamental structure of the integration process should be changed or different directions should be sought.

The Colombian position on the Cartagena Agreement is presented in a document in limited circulation that President Betancur's administration submitted for consideration by the Mixed Committee on Foreign Trade. This led to the creation of a subcommittee that will examine the Andean situation in depth and present to the administration recommendations on the direction to take on this front.

Official sources consulted by EL TIEMPO indicated that the subcommittee's conclusions should be presented before the end of the month in order to provide new arguments to the plenipotentiary representatives of Colombia at the next meeting of the Committee on the Cartagena Agreement, which will take place within 2 weeks.

Colombian officials believe that there is a need for "an integration scheme that is less ambitious but more in line with the economic reality of the member countries." In this way, "it would have, from the national and community point of view, the advantage of being more secure and reliable, thus reducing the risks presented to the private sector by the recent performance of the Andean Pact."

"The signing of a protocol modifying the Cartagena Agreement is indispensable," states one section of the official document.

The evolution of the process over the last 5 years, "leads to the conclusion that the progress achieved has been limited. In addition to disturbing legal gaps caused by failure to meet deadlines, situations have been generated which have destabilized the conditions that support the flow of trade," it states.

Among other aspects of concern are the inoperativeness of the industrial program, the decline in trade and the automatic, irrevocable advance of the program of liberalization, the viability of which is questionable.

Colombia points out how its minor exports to the Andean area increased 571 percent between 1970 and 1982, with a positive trade balance between 1970 and 1980. By 1983 the trends had changed radically: exports fell 60.4 percent and the trade deficit rose 55.4 percent.

After citing Colombia's progress on all fronts of economic management and industrial development, which is greater than that of the other countries, it states that many circumstances have changed and that consequently, "the commercial results of exchanges with the Andean Pact have become unfavorable for Colombia."

It also asserts that for years the Andean negotiations "have produced few tangible results" and that "there is a need to reform the standards governing the process, since the current standards have turned out to be inadequate for regulating all of the situations that have occurred."

For Colombia, "this reform should be implemented as soon as possible in order to avoid the prolongation of the critical situation in subregional trade."

The Colombian position on the reform of the Andean Pact, the expansion of facilities for foreign investment and the status of Ecuador as a less developed country are expressed in the following points, which are the foundation of the aforementioned document.

1. With a view to adjusting them to the realities of subregional trade, some commitments to trade liberalization should be made more flexible. This implies preserving, as far as possible, the reciprocal flow of trade, but accepting the reversibility of the Liberalization Program and the equitable expansion of the Lists of Exceptions when circumstances so dictate. As an alternative to the extremes of the Liberalization Program and the Lists of Exceptions, an intermediate regime should be established which will allow the importing country to exercise a certain degree of control over the trade

flow of certain products in accordance with guidelines agreed upon by the community. This should permit the negotiation of bilateral pacts on the basis of reciprocity and nonextensibility in the case of products that do not come completely under the Program of Liberalization. These agreements could form the framework for the exchange and payment operations.

2. The effort should be continued to define the mechanisms that regulate the conditions of subregional authority, but adjusting them to the new modalities of commercial trade. The right to the benefits of the Liberalization Program should be contingent on strict compliance.

3. In industrial programming the content will change radically. The establishment of sectoral programs with any plural number of countries should be permitted; and in these programs quotas and the commitment not to exceed them should be eliminated.

4. The norms regulating agricultural and livestock trade should be adapted to the characteristics peculiar to the sector. This implies ensuring the operation of an effective margin of preference, even in the case of purchases by official entities, and the establishment of measures that permit regulation of trade in all agricultural and livestock products.

The new orientation of agricultural and livestock integration will also include the actions to promote food production and security envisaged in the Jose Celestino Mutis Agreement.

5. There should be a differentiation between the preferential treatment granted to Bolivia and Ecuador, since the former has moved backwards in relative and absolute terms since the establishment of the Andean Pact while the latter is approaching, in many indicators, the development levels of Colombia and Peru. It is unacceptable for Ecuador to continue receiving the benefits of the Liberalization Program without reciprocity.

6. In regard to foreign investment, the transformation regime of Decision 24 should be liberalized and there should be an expansion of the number of cases in which foreign investment may be accepted in existing national companies. Otherwise, the provisions of the Development Plan are still valid in the sense that the Andean norms, properly interpreted, will provide an adequate framework of stability and security for foreign investment.

7. There should be greater flexibility in the norms regarding the application of the various safeguard clauses with a view to making them more operative and realistic and reducing the discretionary powers of the governing body of the Cartagena Agreement in this regard.

FRIDAY 18 MAY 1984 - EL TIEMPO - 9-A

COLOMBIAN TRADE WITH THE ANDEAN PACT
1982-1983
(U.S. Dollars in Millions)

| | <u>1982</u> | <u>1983</u> | <u>Percentage Change</u> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| BOLIVIA | | | |
| Exports | 1.4 | 1.9 | + 35.07 |
| Imports | 6.2 | 6.2 | - |
| Balance | -4.8 | 4.3 | - 10.4 |
| ECUADOR | | | |
| Exports | 57.6 | 56.2 | - 2.4 |
| Imports | 194.1 | 157.4 | - 18.1 |
| Balance | -136.5 | -101.2 | - 25.9 |
| PERU | | | |
| Exports | 35.7 | 22.0 | - 38.4 |
| Imports | 167.7 | 93.3 | - 55.6 |
| Balance | -132.0 | -73.3 | - 44.5 |
| VENEZUELA | | | |
| Exports | 401.1 | 116.2 | - 71.0 |
| Imports | 436.2 | 426.4 | - 2.2 |
| Balance | - 35.1 | - 310.2 | + 783.8 |
| TOTAL | | | |
| Exports | 495.7 | 196.3 | - 60.5 |
| Imports | 809.1 | 683.3 | - 15.8 |
| Balance | -313.4 | -487.0 | + 55.4 |

Source: Registros INCOMEX

Colombia's trade with the other countries of the Andean Pact has developed in the last 2 years as illustrated in this table.

12351

CSO: 3348/433

ST LUCIA HAILS TRINIDAD ACTION ON IMPORT LICENSES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 84 p 5

[Text]

CASTRIES, Thurs., (Cana):
GOVERNMENT and trade officials here today welcomed Trinidad and Tobago's assurance that it will give "expeditious attention" to the processing of import licences from St Lucia.

The announcement, made last Friday in Port-of-Spain by Trinidad and Tobago's Industry and Commerce Minister Desmond Cartey, came after persistent efforts by St Lucian authorities to get the twin-island republic relax an import licensing system it introduced a year ago.

St. Lucia, which has a large market in Trinidad and Tobago for manufactured goods, especially garments, had been complaining that the restriction was not only hurting its export trade but resulting in layoffs in local factories as well.

Today, the Ministry of Trade here expressed elation with Cartey's announcement. Said Permanent Secretary Edwin Laurent: "We hope that

this ministerial statement would in fact be reflected in the actions of the administrative departments in Trinidad which issue the licences."

Laurent said Cartey's claim that Trinidad and Tobago has an adverse trade balance with the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries did not apply to St Lucia.

According to him, last year, St Lucia imported goods valued at \$24.9 million from Trinidad while exports to Port-of-Spain from here totalled \$13.5 million.

"If there is a freer flow of our exports once more, there should be a modest improvement in our employment situation here because a lot of jobs have both threatened and lost during this difficult period," Laurent said.

The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce also welcomed the Trinidad announcement. Executive secretary Ruth Mc Farlane said her organisation had been hoping for a development of this nature for some time.

"We are happy that it has come," she said, adding that the Port-of-Spain restrictions had been affecting St Lucian manufacturers greatly.

CSO: 3298/849

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO, BARBADOS AGREE ON JOINT AIR SERVICE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT-to-government relations have been stepped up between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in the field of air transportation.

Agreement has been reached in principle for a joint service on the Barbados/London/Europe route by State-owned British West Indian Airways (BWIA) and Barbados-operated Caribbean Airways.

This was the outcome of a meeting earlier this month between Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of State Enterprises, Mr. Ronald Williams, and Mr. Bernard St. John, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados. The Barbados meeting was aimed at promoting greater co-operation between the two regional states in matters related to air transport.

The proposed joint venture is to enable Caribbean Airways to improve its operating viability and to assist forever-in-the-red BWIA to reduce its annual losses.

A government source explained yesterday that the executives of BWIA and Caribbean Airways have been "mandated by the Ministers to examine urgently the options for providing a joint service and to report back to them."

It was stated that the options proposed must be "consistent with the overriding imperative of improving the profitability of each airline."

The joint venture plan ties in with ongoing issues being discussed between the Ministry of State Enterprises and BWIA on issues affecting adversely the operations of the airline.

Matters in discussion take in:

- Unfair competition and monopoly practices;
- Bilateral air service agreements, charter operations and cargo transportation;
- Establishment of new ventures including establishment of duty-free shopping at Piarco Airport for returning passengers;
- Cost-cutting exercises;
- Improvement to the terminal facilities and operation of Trinidad-Tobago air bridge.

Discussions have been instituted to assist BWIA to eliminate "unacceptably" large losses sustained since its inception.

The source continued: "The need to eliminate these losses has been more urgent now in view of the clear notice which the Minister of Finance has served that the Treasury can no longer continue to absorb these losses. BWIA must come out of a loss position and do so rapidly."

Losses published for BWIA — 1978 (\$57 million); 1979 (\$75 million); 1980 (\$115 million); 1981 (\$100 million); 1982 (\$75 million); cash deficit of \$50 million in 1983 expected to be reduced to \$10 million this year.

BRIEFS

CDB ACTIONS--The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved more than \$14 million (U.S.) in new loans and grants for regional and national projects with most of the money intended for a reequipment programme being undertaken by the inter-island airline LIAT. This decision, among others, was undertaken at the 87th meeting of the bank's board of directors held at the CDB's headquarters in Barbados earlier this month. At the meeting the board authorised the bank's president William G. Demas to sign the following: 1. Two agreements with the European Economic Community (EEC) in respect of loans for \$2 million (U.S.) and \$13.7 million (U.S.) for use by LIAT in its reequipment programme and, 2. A nonreimbursible grant agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the sum of \$12.7 million (U.S.) towards a second basic needs programme for the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Belize. The LIAT loan for \$13.7 million (U.S.) is the second approved in a month by CDB for the airline. On March 15, the directors approved a loan of \$2 million and grant of \$2.6 million (U.S.) for the airline. The loans and the grant are made from resources provided under a special arrangement with the EEC and would assist in financing an extensive modernisation programme involving the purchase of four new 50-seat aircraft, expansion of workshop, acquisition of tools and equipment and further training of personnel. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 84 p 10]

CSO: 3298/833

ANOTHER PLP OFFICIAL QUITS PARTY TO JOIN OPPOSITION FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 May 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

ANOTHER ONE of the Prime Minister's staunch generals, Rev Kendall Munroe of Little Creek, South Andros, has thrown in the towel after 17 years and crossed over to the Opposition Free National Movement.

Disillusioned with the high unemployment rate and deprived conditions under which South Androsians must live, Rev Munroe said he can no longer believe the empty promises of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling. He is the second "general" to leave Sir Lynden in less than a month.

"I am fully convinced that it is time for the Prime Minister to go. He is not fishing any more. He is not cutting bait anymore. So he knows what to do. Get out of the boat," Rev Munroe, who has campaigned for Sir Lynden since 1967, advised.

Rev Munroe made his statement to The Tribune today in the company of Orthniel Lewis, chairman of the FNM's Bluff, Andros branch. He wanted to make it clear to PLPs in South Andros and throughout the Bahamas that he no longer supports the Prime Minister or his PLP party.

"I now make it very clear that I support the leader of the Opposition, Mr Kendal Isaacs, and the Free National Movement," Rev Munroe said.

"I am disappointed and fed up with the bad representation of the Prime Minister in South

Andros and it is time that we wake up and see that the Prime Minister has lost all interest in us. Therefore, I am saying to the people of South Andros it is time for a change. The Prime Minister has continued to mislead the people with promises which he has no intention of fulfilling," Rev Munroe said.

He said that Sir Lynden has promised to give South Andros electricity since 1978 "and up to this day we don't have it."

The Prime Minister promised that South Andros would have a dock for the mailboat, but "we don't have it yet."

Sir Lynden promised full employment by 1980 "yet there is mass unemployment in South Andros and the Prime Minister is doing nothing to alleviate the mass unemployment that is in his constituency."

He said that 62 of the 70 people who voted in Little Creek during the last election supported Sir Lynden, "but at the present time there are only two people employed out of the community." He said that there are some people who are afraid to voice their dissatisfaction with the PLP. He urged them to speak up because they have nothing to lose.

Rev Munroe recalled that during the last elections, some South Androsian women lifted Sir Lynden from his plane to the car, so that his feet wouldn't touch the ground.

However, he said that since

the general elections, Sir Lynden has not met with the people of Little Creek to let them know what he intends to do for them.

He said that because of the unemployment situation, the children of South Andros have to leave home when they finish school because there are no jobs for them.

Rev Munroe challenged Sir Lynden, or any other PLP in his Kemp's Bay constituency, to refute what he had to say.

"After the people of South Andros have so wholeheartedly supported him he came down and called them fools to their faces. That's the thanks we got. But, I say watch out Pindling, some fools are catching their senses. You will meet somebody in your way come the next election and things will not be as easy for you as in other times," Rev Munroe said.

He warned that he is prepared to do whatever he can to unseat Sir Lynden "because the Prime Minister does not have the (welfare) of the people at

heart as he would have us believe."

Rev Munroe was of the opinion that Sir Lynden is merely brainwashing the people with his "empty promises."

"It is my opinion that the Prime Minister, in his dealings, keeps the people of South Andros poor so that they can always humble at his feet. If the Prime Minister wanted investors in South Andros, they would have been there. But, I am convinced that he doesn't want any there," Rev Munroe said.

"I wish to warn the Prime Minister that God is going to call him into judgment for taking advantage of misinformed and misguided people in South Andros."

Rev Munroe said that those who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

Another staunch general, Mr Shervin Bain, announced on Friday, May 13 - Black Friday - that he had left the party to join the FNM. Mr Bain also made reference to the 1978 promise for electricity.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS \$30-MILLION LOAN FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

DEPUTY PRIME Minister and Minister of Finance Arthur Hanna today moved a resolution in the House of Assembly seeking approval for government to borrow \$30 million to assist in defraying expenditure on capital development.

Mr Hanna also announced that any bills contracted by a government officer with any business without an authorised warrant, will not be paid by government. The officers, Mr Hanna said, will be made to pay the bill from their own pockets.

This was disclosed by Mr Hanna following a statement by Mr Isaacs that government has a number of unpaid local bills, to the extent that some businesses have cut off government credit.

"No one has any authority to credit anything on behalf of government without a proper warrant signed by the treasurer," Mr Hanna said. "There are many cases in which a Ministry credits something without a warrant and we won't pay it."

"If a Ministry officer goes and credits something without a warrant he will pay the bill himself out of his own pocket, if he credits labour, items services or anything," Mr Hanna said.

Mr Hanna denied that certain bills were not paid by government because they could not afford it.

"I agree there may be certain people that government needs to pay more promptly, but the delay is not because government cannot afford it. Government has always had the capacity to pay," Mr Hanna said.

Mr Hanna pointed out that government has always been able to carry out any short falls in its cash flow by advances from banks. He said also that when certain banks have cash flow shortages they are assisted by government.

It was pointed out to Mr Hanna by FNM Blue Hills representative Arthur Foulkes that student nurses and school bus drivers are not paid by government for months at a time.

"It would seem to me that government does have financial difficulties if they can't pay student nurses for months on end," Mr Foulkes said. "When the public looks at these things it would put some doubt in their minds as to the solvency of the government. The public is entitled to an explanation."

Mr Hanna said there was a reason for all the delays in

payment. With regards to the nurses and other government officers he said when they are paid, it is done so "all at once and in full."

"The case of the school buses is a special case and the drivers know what the problem is. A lot has to be ironed out in that matter," Mr Hanna said.

On the point of borrowing more money for capital development, Carmichael MP Frank Watson pointed out that in 1979 government received approval to borrow \$21 million for the infrastructural development of the south eastern islands, such as Acklins and Crooked Island.

In 1981 they received provisions to build a softball stadium in New Providence and an adolescent psychiatric centre at Sandilands. All of this was approved in the budget, Mr Watson said, but not carried out. Yet, he said, all funds allocated for capital works have been spent.

Mr Hanna retorted that the House never approved for these things to be done now. Government simply submitted a list of what they intended to do with the money approved, but, he said, "we have the right to change our minds in midstream."

PINDLING AT YOUTH RALLY DISCOUNTS EARLY ELECTION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 May 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling last night urged PLP supporters in Fort Charlotte not to "worry" about talk about an early general election. He told Young Liberals that the party wants 65 per cent of the votes there in 1987, when the next general elections must be held.

"Young Liberals, you heard what your MP said tonight," the Prime Minister said in an address at the regular monthly meeting of the PLP Fort Charlotte Branch at the T G Glover School. "Fifty-eight and a half per cent in 1982 when he was aiming for 60 per cent, that will never satisfy me."

"Now your job is to make sure that next time it is 65 per cent. I don't want you aiming for it. OK, if you want something to aim for, aim at 70," he said. "And remember, if you aim for 70, I want you to get 65 per cent."

"You ought to be able to get 65 per cent in Fort Charlotte in 1987. Don't worry about what the other fellows say, unless you get the time from me, you tell them that ain't the time," the Prime Minister said.

Before addressing the large crowd that filled the schoolroom, the Prime Minister presented certificates to nine branch members in recognition of their work in the constituency since 1977.

Also present at the meeting were Fort Charlotte MP Valen-

tine Grimes, Rock Sound MP James Moultrie, PLP Chairman Brenville Hanna, Secretary General Senator Berlin Pratt, Second Vice Chairman Charlie Major, Jr, Fourth Vice Chairman Hassam Brown and Young Liberals Chairman Trevor Whyly.

The Prime Minister, who opened himself up for questioning at the end of his talk, told his audience that the country is about to face a crisis in human relations and communication, and that he is distressed by the way in which young men treat young women.

He said that Women's Lib may have something to do with it and that women may have pushed their luck a little too far too fast and too soon, but that he may be wrong.

"I think that we are about to face, if we are not facing it already, a crisis in human relations," he said, adding that he means that Bahamians no longer think about each other and treat each other the way they used to.

Noting that there are three reasons for that, the Prime Minister said: "Some of us have forgotten how, some of us never knew how, others said they think it's old fashion and don't want to do it anymore."

"Well, I have a sneaky suspicion that whether we have just forgotten or whether we don't want to or we never

knew, that our inability to deal properly with each other at a human and personal level, accounts for part of the problems that we face," he said.

He criticized the way friends talk to each other, how mothers talk to their children and fathers for not talking to their children at all.

"Somehow fathers have something against talking," he said. "They may grumble something to their wives but they don't want to talk to their children at all and they just shove that aside and say that for your mummy to deal with."

"What distresses me most is how young men treat young women," the Prime Minister said.

He asked why is it that young men no longer open doors for young women anymore or pull out a chair for ladies, young or old, anymore, and why they don't stand when a lady enters a

room anymore.

He said that some may call it old fashioned and tired behaviour but questioned whether good behaviour can ever be tired behaviour.

"I think that women's lib might have had something to do with it," he said. "And it may well be that the ladies pushed their luck a little too far too fast too soon. Now that's my point of view. I may be dead wrong."

"And therefore that set up a reaction in the other sex who said well, sorry, if you think you are that hard and you want me to open the door for you, why don't you open it yourself," he said.

"I think that may have something to do with it, but even if that is true, that's not really the answer because a lady is a lady and she is therefore entitled to be treated as a lady unless she doesn't wish to be treated as a lady," he said.

CS0: 3298/882

\$45-MILLION HOUSING PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts]

AN AMBITIOUS \$45 million housing programme for the poor and lower middle class was outlined in Parliament yesterday afternoon.

The new social scheme, which will provide low interest loans through the Ministry of Housing's Mortgage Corporation, is expected to benefit hundreds of families a year. The National Insurance Board will put up at least half of the funds.

Housing and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham said that the success of the programme will depend to a large extent on "how much stock the private sector takes up." He suspected that the commercial banks together would be able to contribute a little under one quarter of the \$45 million, and that insurance companies would plough some of their profits into the scheme.

Mr Ingraham's housing programme drew enthusiastic support from both Government and Opposition members.

"It seems that at long last the PLP Government has become conscious of the need to do something imaginative and extensive enough to meet the needs (of the people)," Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes (FNM) said.

Mr Foulkes worried that Mr Ingraham might not get the full support of his colleagues because "history has not been kind to good Ministers" in the PLP, "especially when it's rumoured that he aspires to be number one."

Mr Ingraham said that the scheme would not be political and that he would not be directly involved in approving applications.

Sums of up to \$75,000, but generally under \$50,000, will be loaned at a general rate of two and a half per cent above the rate at which the money was borrowed. Interest rates will

generally range from 8½ to 12½ per cent, depending on a family's income and other circumstances. Two per cent of this has been pegged for a mortgage insurance fund, which will step in if the borrower defaults.

According to a 1983/4 Ministry conducted Housing Needs Study, the Bahamas needs close to 2,000 additional housing units per year for the balance of this decade - double the rate at which housing is now being constructed. In addition to new housing, there is a requirement for 500 housing rehabilitations a year.

The projected investment in new housing and rehabilitation required to the end of this decade is \$564 million in 1983 dollars.

Mr Ingraham said that financing of this magnitude must be made available through Bahamian individuals and financial institutions if the housing requirements are to be met.

CSO: 3298/882

SIX POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH VARIETY OF CRIMES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Text]

SIX police officers were released on bail today after being charged in the magistrates court with armed robbery, possession of a firearm, causing harm and making threats of death.

Arraigned before magistrate John Lester on the armed robbery charge were Philip Rolle, 19, of South Beach; Elcid Evans, 19, of Big Pond Subdivision, Glenford Ferguson, 19, of Ridgeland Park and Philip Sturup, 18, of Brougham Street.

They are jointly accused of robbing Jackson Joseph of \$175 on May 21 while armed with a shotgun. They were further charged with being in possession of a firearm while committing an indictable offence.

They were each released on \$5000 bail with one surety to return for a preliminary inquiry into the matter on June 26.

Rolle, Ferguson and Sturup were represented by lawyer Charles Mackey and Evans was represented by lawyer Rhonda Bain.

Rolle and Evans were further charged with two other counts of possessing a firearm with intent to put someone in fear. They are jointly accused with Abner Saunders, 18, of Cumberbatch Alley, and Denis Cleare, 23, of Odle Corner, of possessing a shotgun May 22 to put Headley Brice in fear.

The four were also charged with assaulting Brice and threatening to kill him. A preliminary inquiry will open June 26. Each of the accused was \$5000 bail with one surety.

Saunders was not represented by counsel. Cleare was represented by lawyer Godfrey Pinder, and Rolle and Evans were represented by lawyers Charles Mackey and Rhonda Bain respectively.

CSO: 3298/882

UNIONS, FNM AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT LABOR POLICIES

Isaacs on Unemployment

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 May 84 p 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

CABBAGE Hill, Crooked Island: Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, told over 100 enthusiastic supporters at a rally in this southeastern island Saturday night that unemployment in the Bahamas today "is the fault" of the PLP Government.

According to Mr Isaacs, with a caring and competent Government, the state of affairs and the economy of the Bahamas could be turned around in a matter of months.

Declaring that there is unemployment either because Government doesn't care for the Bahamas or because they are incompetent, the Free National Movement leader also accused Government of seeking to "enslave the minds" of Bahamians by keeping them poor and dependent upon Government.

"You know, the awful thing about the conditions that exist, not just in Acklins or in Crooked Island, but conditions that exists in Southern Andros, Mayaguana, in Cat Island and Exuma, in almost every island in the Bahamas, we have this plight of unemployment," Mr Isaacs told the rally.

"Now if, in spite of everything that the Government could do, unemployment was necessary and couldn't be done

away with, we could say: 'OK, this is a problem which nobody could solve, it's not the Government's fault, there's not much we could do about it,' he said.

"But, you know, that is not so. Unemployment in this country today is the fault of the PLP Government. The poor conditions that exist, also in Acklins I noticed, as in Crooked Island, the poor conditions exist because either the PLP Government don't care about the people of the Bahamas or they are incompetent to do anything for the welfare of the people of the Bahamas.

"Or, as one speaker said, it seems as if they want to keep the people dependent upon them, keep them poor, just before the election give them a little something, give them some promises and that, that way enslave, and I use that word advisedly, enslave their minds," he said.

"It is time, ladies and gentlemen, that we wake up, and you know, I am happy and proud to say that the people of the Bahamas are waking up," he said.

Mr Isaacs headed a group of FNM members, including Shirlea MP Pierre Dupuch, Englerston candidate Alvy Penn, Acklins-Crooked island

candidate hopeful Rupert "Lipstick" Williamson, Torch Editor Lionel Dorsett and Torchbearers public relations officer Fred Williamson, on a 28-hour jaunt through Acklins and Crooked Island beginning Saturday morning.

The party flew first to Pinefield, Acklins, and toured the southern settlements of Chesters and Lovely Bay, where they received a warm and enthusiastic reception from residents, the majority of whom complained about PLP neglect of the island.

Later the party flew to Crooked Island and passed through the settlements of Colonel Hill and Cabbage Hill, where a rally was held before Mr Isaacs addressed a National Youth Week ceremony.

On Sunday morning, the FNM contingent returned to Acklins, landing at the Spring Point airport and toured the northern settlements of Hard Hill and Snug Corner before attending a Mother's Day church service at Pine Field.

Other speakers at the rally included Mr Dupuch, Mr Rupert Williamson, Mr Fred Williamson and Mr Julius Bonaby, a Crooked island FNM supporter, while Mr Penn chaired the meeting at the Cabbage Hill School.

Mr Isaacs told his cheering audience, who crowded the schoolroom and stood at the doors and windows, that in New Providence the people are having the "scales" fall from their eyes.

He said that Bahamians in New Providence have been promised, "and hear me, they have been promised a better life, full employment and that they would have such a quality of life that they would be the envy of the rest of the world."

"And you know, especially the people Over-the-Hill, who were responsible mainly for putting the PLP into power, they are the ones who are suffering and they are the ones who have been promised the earth, and these promises are repeated before every general elections and again up until 1982 anyway the people of the Bahamas have fallen for these false promises and again have elected the PLP Government," the opposition leader said.

"But now, I say that the people are having the scales fall from their eyes because you know what they have seen: if you are going to judge someone you want to know what is its track record, what it has done in the past to justify your putting faith in him for the future," Mr Isaacs said.

"Because," he added, "if he had done nothing in the past, if he has been incompetent and dishonest in the past, then the odds are that he is going to be dishonest and incompetent in the future."

He said the PLP has been given every chance for 17 years from 1967 until today. He wanted to know what the PLP

has done in Acklins during that period.

He told the crowd that he visited Acklins in 1971 just before the 1972 election and the road was better than it is now, and the conditions were not very good with unemployment.

"But you know, today, 17 years later, conditions have not changed, unless, of course, they have changed for the worse. They haven't changed for the better, and the awful thing about it is that with a caring and competent government, the state of affairs and the economy of this country can be turned around in a matter of months," he said.

"I tell you that because I have been assured of that," he said. "I have been in contact with local investors and foreign investors and all they want is a government that they can trust."

He noted that he was campaigning three weeks ago in the Kemps Bay, South Andros constituency of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and had been there in 1982 just before the general elections.

"And I told the people there exactly what I am telling you now that...no...no...no, I told them a little more because you've got just a backbencher (Wilbert Moss, MP) to represent you in Acklins and Crooked Island, a man who has to depend on his Cabinet, the Prime Minister and his Ministers before he can do anything for you, but the Prime Minister is the representative for Kemps Bay."

"And I told them in 1982 that over the years the Prime Minister of the country, the most powerful man in the

country, that he has done absolutely nothing for Kemps Bay in 17 years. And as I said earlier, if he hasn't done anything in the past, you must not expect anything in the future," he said.

He noted that two of the Prime Minister's "generals" in the Kemps Bay constituency, Capt Sherwin Bain and Rev Kendal Munroe, have come over to the FNM.

"Two men who supported the PLP from 1967 and who like, so many of the good people of the Bahamas, believed in the promises of the Prime Minister until their patience ran out because they have come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister meant them no good whatsoever," Mr Isaacs said.

"As I said earlier, if he is the most powerful man in the country, then surely he could have done something for his constituency but he has done absolutely nothing," he said. "There is as little employment there as there is in Acklins and Crooked Island."

Reiterating that the scales are falling from the eyes of the Bahamian people and in New Providence, more and more Bahamians are seeing the PLP Government in their true light and are seeing that they mean the Bahamian people no good whatsoever.

He said it is his information that Acklins and Crooked Island are in the same category and the scales are falling from the eyes of the residents because there is a better quality of life out there for them with a caring, competent and honest government.

Criticism of Maynard

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

LABOUR AND Home Affairs Minister Clement Maynard has not been invited to address the annual Labour Day rally at Windsor Park on June 1.

The Trade Union Congress, which applied for permission to use Windsor Park for the rally in early April, was told only last Friday that they would be able to use the grounds.

TUC secretary general Leonard Archer criticised the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs, from which permission must be granted, for taking so long to reply to the TUC's request.

Mr Archer said it is ridiculous that a Minister, who is paid \$60,000 a year, has to decide whether the parks, "which belong to the people," can be used by the people.

"It is utterly ridiculous that a high servant is involved in such petty matters. No wonder our country is going to hell," he said.

Mr Archer said that the TUC has yet to receive a reply to an application it made in February for permission to hold a prayer meeting at Clifford Park.

"The parks belong to the people and if the Government can't get off their backside and approve (applications), then the people will have to take the matter into their own hands. The Government is supposed to be representing the people, not hindering them," he said.

Mr Archer said that the TUC has decided against inviting any politicians to address this year's rally. He pointed out that Mr

Maynard has only attended one Labour Day rally since he became Minister of Labour in October, 1979.

Mr Maynard, who was formerly Minister of Tourism, pleaded ill on Labour Day in 1980 and sent his permanent secretary H C Walkine to fill in for him. Mr Walkine, who is now at the Ministry of Works, was booed, jeered and drowned out by the workers who demanded, "We want Clem...where is Clem?" Mr Maynard's absence earned him the nickname - "Ducking Clem."

Mr Maynard made his first and only appearance at the TUC-sponsored Labour Day rally in 1982. He was booed and half of his speech was drowned out by jeers. The police had to move close to Mr Maynard when political agitator Rodney Moncur and his followers moved towards the speakers' platform. Mr Moncur was removed from the building.

The PLP organized a political march on Labour Day in 1982, which was an election year. For the first time in history, there were two separate "Labour Day" marches. The workers were divided. Mr Maynard

attended the PLP rally.

Last year, Mr Maynard "ducked" the Labour Day rally to address the International Labour Organization in Geneva. It was the first time a Bahamian Labour Minister addressed an ILO plenary session.

However, Mr Maynard returned from the ILO conference one week earlier, sparking speculation that he may have wanted to avoid some sticky questions at the conference about the labour situation in the Bahamas.

The TUC boycotted the Geneva conference because Government failed to comply with the ILO charter by paying the expenses to the conference of two representatives - one from the workers, the other from the employers. The TUC informed the ILO of the situation by telegram.

The ILO was also told how Mr Archer was fired from his post of high school principal by Government for "making political statements."

However, Mr Maynard did not stick around Geneva long enough to give an explanation.

TUC Opposition to Tax

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jun 84 pp 1, 13

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE Trade Union Congress will not stand idly by and allow Government to make a "foolish and arbitrary move" by docking real property taxes from the salaries of civil servants to recover \$50 million in arrears, TUC and Bahamas Public Services Union President Arlington Miller warned Friday.

Addressing hundreds of workers at the annual Labour Day rally at Christie Park before boarding a plane for Freeport to speak to workers there, Mr Miller declared that if workers are in arrears on their

property taxes, there is a "proper and sensible method" to use to get the arrears.

Mr Miller also suggested that Government representatives should sit down with the BPOSU and work out a way that is reasonable. He urged the setting up of a reasonable time-frame to collect outstanding real property taxes at a rate that will not put too much strain on the already-strained pockets of the workers.

Mr Miller's address followed speeches by several other union leaders who participated in one

of two Labour Day marches that saw workers divided for the second straight year on their annual holiday.

The workers, representing seven TUC member unions, started their march at 9 am from Windsor Park north on East Street to Bay Street, west on Bay Street to Blue Hill Road, south along Blue Hill Road to Wulff Road and Poinciana Drive, west along Poinciana Drive to Nassau Street and north along Nassau Street to Christie Park.

The turn-out of the workers,

marching under the banners of their respective unions, was less than last year, when the Bahamas Hotel and Catering Workers Union marched separately as it did again yesterday.

Setting forth the unions' views and opinions on conditions affecting the lives of all workers, Mr Miller also touched on the drug and crime problems, which are destroying the nation.

His warning to Government not to deduct real property taxes follows a circular sent to the various Government Ministries and Corporations informing public servants of Government's plan.

"Recently Government made an announcement that it was going to dock real property taxes from the salaries of public workers for arrears," Mr Miller told the workers. "They claim that over \$50 million is outstanding. We warn Government not to make such a foolish and arbitrary move."

"It is not the workers' fault that massive inefficiency and mismanagement have brought about such a situation. Surely an intelligently runned agency would not tolerate such gross incompetence and neglect," he added.

"We will not stand by idle and allow Government to dock payment from public workers," the TUC and BPSU Leader declared.

"If workers are in arrears, we believe there is a proper and sensible method to use to obtain monies in arrears," Mr Miller said. "Public servants' salaries are peanuts now. Look like some people don't want them to have that. We cannot allow that."

"We suggest that we sit down and work out a way that is reasonable. We suggest that a reasonable time-frame is set up for such collection and we suggest that workers pay at a rate that will not put too much strain on their already-strained pockets," Mr Miller said.

"When you are powerful, you should be reasonable and when you make mistakes, the workers should not be made to suffer unjustly," the union leader added.

Turning to the conditions

affecting the workers, Mr Miller noted that since last year, the TUC has witnessed the closure of a number of businesses in New Providence, Grand Bahama and other Family Islands, which cripple workers and weaken unions.

Calling for economic diversification, Mr Miller said it appears that Government does not have the capacity to provide the legislative foundation to redirect the nation to a new economic frontier as it has made constant promises but has taken no real aggressive action.

He noted that the past president of the Chamber of Commerce recently begged unions to keep industrial peace and become partners with business. He agreed on one point only and that was that trade unions must get involved in business ownership.

"We must begin to create employment opportunity for ourselves, as trade unions we must work to establish all of the essential services, such as banking facilities, mortgaging facilities and venture capital facilities for ourselves," Mr Miller said.

He said that the trade union movement has the numerical capacity to become economically self sufficient, has the potential to fund any long-term economic programme and has in its ranks enough skilled personnel to provide quality service on a competitive basis equal to any private concern locally or regionally.

He pointed out that a number of unions have seen fit to introduce their own pension-saving plan for their respective workers, which makes it possible for members to get shelters and soft loans from their own unions.

"Behold a new day is dawning for trade unions. We are on the right track at last," he said. "The time will come when we will have a union bank for workers in this country. The time will come when we will have our own mortgaging corporation for workers. The time will come when we will have our own insurance company."

He said that the union movement will seek to be owners and not partners and

will be the controllers and not just followers.

He called upon fellow union leaders to rededicate themselves to the goals in front and not to depend on anyone to help them.

"It is our sacred duty to mobilise all workers in this nation. It is our sacred duty to implement bold economic programmes that will utilize the productive powers of our workers. It is our sacred duty to create a climate of peace, dignity and future security for our people," he said.

Mr Miller also told workers that this year is crucial in the life of the trade union movement

"We watch as the reputation of our country is blackened in international quarters as a drug country. We see these cherished working man's ideals dashed to pieces by drugs influence of easy monies and we see countless families, old and young, rich and poor, devastated by this evil influence," Mr Miller said.

"I believe it is true to say that never before in the history of our country has there been a bad influence which causes so much pain, suffering, broken hopes, shattered dreams and even death," he added.

He said that nation's workers must be concerned about it as working men and women are shattered by this evil, families are broken beyond repair, children are lost forever by addiction and abuse and the future for many grows dim daily.

He noted that the white collar workers can afford treatment for their habits but the blue collar workers are fired from jobs and have nowhere to turn.

"These workers drift deeper and deeper into a life of drugs and crime," Mr Miller said. "Much of the crime we hear about is done against middle and lower income workers."

Mr Miller said that the present generation flirting with drugs will cause the loss of 75% of the productive capacity of its generation and the labour force in the coming decade, if this trend is not brought to a halt.

"The loss of such a huge proportion of our young and middle-to-settled workers will effect great economic damage on the nation's economic, social and political life.

Archer Call for Unity

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jun 84 pp 1, 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

TRADE Union Congress Secretary-General Leonard Archer said Friday at a Labour Day rally at Christie Park that unless something is done to revitalize the tourism industry in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the second city is likely to become a ghost town.

Mr Archer also hoped that this year's Labour Day will be the last time the Hotel Workers Union, whose members are being displaced from Government-owned hotels because of closures, will march by itself, because Government is not doing "one damn thing" to help that union.

Mr Archer, also President of the Caribbean Congress of Labour and a former Teachers Union chief, called on the workers to unite against Government, which is their common enemy as it happens to be their employer.

Suggesting that equal concern be shown to the workers who are being displaced in the tourism industry, Mr Archer said that just this year alone some 500 or 600 workers have effectively lost their jobs.

"Unless something is done to revitalize the industry in Freeport, a second city is likely to become a ghost town," said Mr Archer, who was fired from the teaching profession in July, 1983, by Government while he was still president of the Bahamas Union of Teachers.

"I am not aware of any statement of concern by the Minister (of Tourism, Perry Christie) or his Government or any action by the Minister and his Government on behalf of those laid-off workers, who as a result of being unemployed, cannot now even trumpet the empty slogan: It's better in the Bahamas," Mr Archer declared.

Mr Archer said that it ap-

pears that when Government runs out of ideas, it resorts to slogans and catch-phrases, and if it is true, the Government has been bereft of any ideas over the many years.

"You know it is interesting that the very union that represents the workers in the hotel industry is not with us today," Mr Archer said. "They have decided to have their own Labour Day affair in another place."

"I certainly hope that this is the last year that this happens in our country because, let's face it, the Government isn't doing one damn thing to help the workers in that union," Mr Archer said.

"Those workers are being displaced from Government-owned hotels and they can't even get their severance pay," he added.

"Therefore, we the workers must unite against the common enemy and the common enemy in this particular instance happens to be our employer, and the employer in this instance happens to be the Government," he said.

"It must be evident to all that the Government has no answer to the current economic problems," he said.

Mr Archer said that in just a few days, the number of potential workers in this country will be increased by some 5,000 when the schools go through their annual exercises of passing out their 12th graders.

Asking what these young people are going to do to support themselves in a dignified and productive manner, Mr Archer said: "Given the present state of the economy the answer seems to be that they will not be able to do so."

"It is also apparent that the Government has no idea either

of what they will do," he said. "This being the case, I am recommending to the Government that it immediately set up a task force to make recommendations for the improvement of our economy and the speedy elimination of unemployment in the society."

Mr Archer said that the Deputy Prime Minister in his budget debate made a frightening slip when he said that Government is dedicated to the task of ridding this country of "employment."

"Now, you know sometimes you say things that you don't really mean but really they are true," Mr Archer said. "The fact is whether the Government is dedicated or not, the fact that its policies are dedicated to ridding this country of employment, not unemployment, their acts alone, the things they are doing, are ensuring that the numbers of young people will not get jobs and people who already had jobs are losing them."

"We must as workers do something about this," he said, and repeated for Government some advice from its leader around 1970.

"I think it is very appropriate for the Government today and it is this: if the Government can't fish, then it should cut bait; if it can't cut bait, then it should get the hell out of the boat," Mr Archer said, quoting the famous ultimatum of Prime Minister Pindling to PLP members 14 years ago.

"We the workers must demand action now because if we have waited too long, we might all be destroyed in the economic chaos that looms ahead," Mr Archer said.

Mr Archer told the workers that the TUC is not hard on Government, and all that it does is tell the truth about

Government and they think it is hell.

"I say to you, we will give them hell. They are our servants and they are not giving us good service," Mr Archer said.

Noting that "we have the wealthiest and highest-paid park-keepers in this country," Mr Archer said that he has officially designated Youth Minister Kendal Nottage as "Keeper of the parks. Keeper of the grass," for which we pay him \$60,000-plus a year and allow him to make a hell of a lot more."

"This is what our Government has developed into. Men with no ideas. Men who have been around too long. Men who feel they have a divine right to be where they are. Men who have no regard for the people. Men who do not care about suffering caused by the oppressive problems in this

country," Mr Archer said.

"And if we don't act. If we don't act, we also show that we do not care," Mr Archer said.

He said that a year ago, Government called him a menace to the country and said he had to be removed from his job as he was corrupting the minds of the young people, and was a threat to the good order of this country.

"I had to be retired in the public's interest," Mr Archer said. "Let me say again that if telling the truth is corrupting the minds of the young people, then I am guilty and I am proud to be guilty."

"But there's also one other thing, I say to Pindling and his crew, it is time for you to retire in the public's interest and if you don't retire in the public's interest, then we would have to see to it that we retire you in the public's interest," Mr Archer said.

Hotel Workers' Threat

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jun 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] HOTEL Union President Thomas Bastian warned Government Friday, at a separate Labour Day rally at Jumbey Village, to be prepared for economic collapse if the union does not have a contract with hotels by January 6, 1985.

Declaring that the country's most powerful union is not prepared to take any chances, Mr Bastian told hundreds of cheering union members: "Since the law is what the law is, then we will exercise our right to protect the interests of the workers."

Mr Bastian also said that the decision against the Hotel Union in the Jack Tar case in the Supreme Court by Senior Judge Sir Dennis Malone left the workers in the country in a "crucial" position, which uproots the rights of the workers during negotiations.

"My brothers and sisters, I must warn this country. I must warn you, the workers, that this country is number one in the tourist business in this hemisphere," he said. "The workers in the tourism industry are in the number one industry in this country."

"And the hotels are raking the profits of this country and are not returning back that which is due to the resource of the workers in this land. The Government needs to be aware that we are about to enter negotiations this year and everytime the occupancy falls in the hotels, the hotels just throw

the people off their jobs and the guests get bad service," the union leader declared.

"The people are only working four days on an average over the year," Mr Bastian said. "Well, I must say now to the employers that since they can practise that they only need four days a week work, then the union now will be proposing a four-day week work for the same pay and more and increase employment to help those people who are unemployed."

"And I don't want the Government. I don't want the employers. I don't want the Ministry talk no double talk because the people have got to work too long, too hard under bad conditions and no thanks back for their labour," Mr Bastian said.

"And under all kinds of conditions they expect that the guests and the workers must receive the kind of happiness that they should receive in the workplace," Mr Bastian added.

Mr Bastian then asked union members for their support as the coming negotiations are very crucial.

"It is crucial from this perspective," Mr Bastian declared. "It is crucial from this perspective: that this Mr Malone gave a judgment in the Jack Tar case which now uproots the rights of the workers during negotiations."

"Before negotiations this time, this union has to have its acts together," Mr Bastian declared.

"At midnight on the 6th of January, 1985, if we don't be in a contract, the Government just well prepare. Either the economy collapse or we get a contract because we ain't prepared to take no chance," the Hotel Union boss warned.

"Since the law is what the law is, then we will have to exercise our rights to protect the interests of the workers," Mr Bastian added.

Mr Bastian declined to release the information the union has gathered on the national consolidation of the income of all of the hotels because an official of the hotel group present might say the information was gleaned from "his people."

"But I will keep that for my information personally. But I will release them to some of our ambassadors and let them know what we know, that the country is producing millions of dollars, billions of dollars from the hotels and it is going out of the country night and day and the workers can't take home a good week's pay to sustain themselves during the course of living," Mr Bastian said.

"So I, Thomas Bastian, if the Lord let me live and he keep me strong and mighty. There's some dark days that will be coming or all will be bright," he said. "But I ask you to stand by me, stand by those fellows out there because when we sit down this time, we are going to be a friend in need and we are going to be a friend indeed."

"And if they are prepared to deliver to us what we ask for then we will be friends forever but if they will not be prepared to deliver the goods we ask for, then we will be an enemy for a short while," Mr Bastian said.

"And enemy means good that comes to those who wait and joy will come to all of you when we get through," Mr Bastian added.

Mr Bastian said that hotel workers are the poorest paid people in any country, and hotel workers in the Bahamas' number one industry are the "poorest paid workers in the history of this country."

The Hotel Union members, marching under the banners of their respective properties, staged a separate Labour Day parade from Windsor Park at 10 am along Wulff Road, Collins Avenue, Bay Street, Blue Hill Road and to Jumbey Village.

Hundreds of workers participated in that march which had a large following of rushing spectators beating goat-skin drums, shaking cowbells and blowing whistles.

That parade was led by contestants in the Miss Hotel pageant riding in two jeeps.

CSO: 3298/881

GOVERNMENT DELAYS OK ON FNM MEETING REQUEST

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 May 84 p 1

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement for two months has been trying without success to obtain permission to hold a public meeting at the Eastern Parade Grounds.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs has told the FNM that before they can use the Parade, they must give Minister Kendal Nottage an undertaking in writing that none of the speakers would infringe the rules laid down by the Commission of Inquiry concerning public and political comments. Permission to use public parks must come from the Ministry.

"Mr Nottage has obviously given instructions to his Ministry deliberately to frustrate the FNM in its attempt to hold a meeting at the Parade. We protest this totally unjustifiable harassment of our party and we publicly call on the Minister to desist from his unfair and undemocratic tactics," the FNM said in a brief press statement today. The party also released copies of correspondence with the Ministry.

On March 8, Ministry permanent secretary CAP Smith told FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield by letter that the dates of March 9 and 16 were available for possible use of the Eastern Parade.

However, he wrote that permission would only be granted "subject to the provision that your party...would abide by the injunction laid down by the Royal Commission of Inquiry...and which dealt

with public and political comments on matters being inquired into by the Commission."

Mr Smith wrote that before permission is granted, the FNM "would be obliged to indemnify the Minister and his Ministry against any infringement of the rules" laid down by the Commission concerning public comments.

On April 11, FNM chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield wrote to Mr Smith, asking "under what authority our party is obliged to indemnify the Minister and his Ministry" against the Commission's rules.

Mr Whitfield wrote that he was not aware of any action in damages which is available to the Commission for any infringement of its rules.

"Your Minister for reasons best known to him, may be much too sensitive and appears to be acting capriciously in attempting without proper authority to impose conditions for the use of a public park; and thereby manufacture an excuse for withholding permission to use the park," he wrote. Again, permission was asked to use the Parade.

Mr Smith also replied to a letter written by FNM secretary general on May 2. In his letter of May 4, Mr Smith said that the date May 8 was available for possible use of the Parade.

However, he reiterated that before permission was granted, the FNM would have to guarantee to Mr Nottage in writing that it would not infringe the rules of the Commission concerning public comment.

PINDLING ACCUSES FNM; OPPOSITION RESPONDS IN RELEASE

Charge of 'Sabotage'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 May 84 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister Pindling, in North Eleuthera Friday night, accused the Free National Movement of hiring four American companies to sabotage the progress of the Bahamas. Claiming he has proof of this, the Prime Minister said he will reveal certain documents when "I am ready."

Today the Free National Movement said it will issue a full statement dealing with the Prime Minister's remarks tomorrow. In the meantime they have said: "The Prime Minister is once again trying to fool the Bahamian public by distracting them away from the real issues at hand like drugs and crime."

Addressing a PLP meeting on Friday night at Lower Bogue, Eleuthera, the Prime Minister named four companies, Project Masters, Florida Systems, Video Communications and Justice International, which he claimed were hired by the FNM to "sabotage our progress in our Bahamas."

"Each one of these companies," the Prime Minister told his listeners, "had a special role to play, earmarked and designed in collaboration and cahoots with the FNM, dealing either directly with the leader of the FNM, Kendal Isaacs or publicity director Arthur Foulkes."

Sir Lynden said he has documents to prove that he was

telling the truth, which he would show to anybody "when I am ready."

He said the names, Kendal G L Isaacs and Arthur A Foulkes, are written on the documents, which were drawn up in the U.S. and filed in Washington, DC.

"It has cost this country, you and your tax money and my tax money over \$500,000 to date in paying so far for the hearings of the Royal Commission and they ain't finish yet," Sir Lynden said.

"When all the expenses have come in, I have not got the foggiest idea what the total bill will be. All I know is, it is gonna be worth it to this country to find out how all this foolishness started and who was trying all this monkey business."

"It meant unfortunately that the progress had to stop in certain areas. It meant unfortunately that certain things couldn't get done in certain areas. It meant that some tourists did slow down in coming to the Bahamas. It did mean that," said Sir Lynden.

"But, thank God we caught it before it did go too far and as time goes by the rest of the story will unfold. It is not secret any longer. All will be revealed in due time and in the proper place so that we will all be able to see and arrive at our own separate conclusions as to what, why, how, who, where and when."

Sir Lynden said it is probably fitting that this has taken place at this particular point in our history and that "it's probably a good thing." The Prime Minister believes conscientiously that "all things happen for the better", and that everything will work itself out and be clear to understand.

He said he thought he should answer some of the questions people might have in their minds as far as he could without discussing the proceedings of the Commission.

He said it was for this reason that he went to North Eleuthera. He spoke highly of Eleuthera. Next weekend he will be in his Kemp's Bay constituency.

Sir Lynden said that this "situation" will pass "like a cloud whose waters have emptied and have joined the flow of the ocean and the sky will clear like the one above us tonight."

"Even though the new moon has already sunk another one

will rise tomorrow evening and it will be a little larger and a little brighter and that will be the kind of situation on which we will flourish."

He said that by now "we" ought to have sufficient experience and togetherness to shrug off "any old foolish nonsense" that might seek to bother or hinder "us."

Sir Lynden said that the FNM does not "have what it takes" to beat the PLP.

"It takes the votes of the majority of the Bahamian people to do that and that is what they do not have. How I know? If you get the votes, you don't need Justice International or Video Communications. They need to get all those other things to make up for the lack of votes and hope that something would happen to cause a disturbance and they could slip in under the cover of darkness but it ain't gonna happen. It's just not going to happen," he said.

FNM Rejoinder

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 May 84 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement made it clear today that it had no intention of "destabilizing" the PLP Government, but rather intended to remove it by every available legal and constitutional means.

The FNM were replying to statements made by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling over the weekend at a political rally in north Eleuthera when he accused the Opposition of engaging persons in the U.S. to "destabilize his government" and "damage" the Bahamas.

The FNM, in an official release referred to Sir Lynden's statement that "we thought we would have been much further on with our programme...but come September, 1983, something happened...somebody else had put some powerful wheels in motion...in such a way...to stop the forward progress of the Bahamas." He was implying

that the FNM was behind the September 5 NBC allegations linking government officials, including himself, with the drug trade.

The FNM today wanted to know what "forward progress" Sir Lynden was talking about. If he was talking about the drug, crime and unemployment problem, then "he ought to have his head examined," was the FNM's response today.

The FNM explained its relations with three of four United States companies named by Sir Lynden. Said the FNM:

"In North Eleuthera last weekend Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling repeated again his allegation that the Free National Movement had engaged persons in the United States to destabilize his Government and do damage to the country. In March this year Sir Lynden made a similar attack

on the FNM which was at that time billed as a bombshell. It turned out to be nothing more than a very defective firecracker.

"It is pathetic to see the head of the Government running about talking nonsense in an effort to fool the public and take the minds of the people off the serious trouble this country is in because of the corrupt, incompetent and spiteful PLP Government.

"It is all an act of desperation, of course, as the country sinks deeper and deeper into the morass of violent crime, drug abuse and unemployment.

"The Pindling administration is reeling as more eyes are opened and the full extent of PLP betrayal becomes more evident with each passing day. The PLP Government is totally incapable of dealing with the disaster they have created and

they are bankrupt of money, ideas and moral authority. So they fall back on a hate campaign against the Opposition.

"We have said before and we repeat today that the FNM has indeed engaged - and accepted offers of assistance from - persons in the United States for various purposes including public relations, fact-finding and fund-raising. By law these persons must register with the U.S. State Department the same as persons engaged by the PLP Government must do. These records are open to the public so Sir Lynden knows who works for us from time to time just as we know who works for his Government in the United States.

"The FNM is not trying to destabilize the PLP Government. We are trying to get rid of them by every legal and constitutional means at our disposal. This is our duty to do and we will continue to do it until we succeed in removing the festering PLP cancer from the bosom of our nation.

"Sir Lynden said once that he and his Government needed a strong Opposition to keep them on their toes. Well, now it appears that they are incapable of getting on their toes. In Sir Lynden's own words, they are too fat, too rich and too drunk to stand up straight so we conceive it our duty to the nation not to rest until they are flat out on the canvass. And while we are at it, we remind Sir Lynden that this is the same Opposition which he so dictatorially and viciously vowed to destroy by 1987.

"The Prime Minister said at

his North Eleuthera meeting that "...We thought we would have been much further on with our programme...But come September 1983, something happened...Somebody else had put some powerful wheels in motion...in such a way...to stop the forward progress of the Bahamas."

"What forward progress is he talking about?

"An economy based on dwindling tourism returns and an increasing drug trade?

"The destruction of thousands of young Bahamians through the spread of dangerous drugs from Abaco to Inagua?

"The flying of the Colombian flag at Norman's Cay by Nazi dope dealer Carlos (Joe) Lehder and the chasing away of legitimate residents from that island?

"The murderous attacks on pleasure yachts cruising the Bahamas by modern-day pirates and drug smugglers?

"The terrifying increase in rape and the transformation of a once tranquil nation to one of the most criminally violent on the face of the earth?

"Rampant unemployment increasing by leaps and bounds every single year for more than a decade?

"Horrendous waste of countless millions of the people's hard-earned tax dollars through PLP incompetence, corruption and stupidity?

"If all this is what Sir Lynden means by 'forward progress' then he ought to have his head examined. To us and to a growing number of Bahamians it looks more like a conspiracy to destroy the country. If, in the final analysis, the FNM can

take some credit for exposing such a conspiracy, we will do so gladly, proud in the knowledge that we would have done a great service to our country.

"The FNM will not at this time risk too many comments on the Royal Commission of Inquiry but we feel it is our duty to draw public attention to what we consider to be disparaging references by Sir Lynden.

"We do not think that the public inquiry into the nefarious dope trade can be justifiably referred to as 'foolishness' and we do not believe that the Bahamian people regard it as foolishness. We will of course, have a great deal more to say about the Inquiry at the appropriate time.

"Now, with reference to the four companies named by the Prime Minister as having been engaged by the FNM:

"The public relations firm of Project Masters, Miami, has been engaged by the FNM and paid by the FNM for their services. Florida Systems is an affiliate of Project Masters.

"The principals of Justice International, as we have said before, offered their services to us and went ahead to register with the State Department. They have raised no money for us and have provided us with no information and we have paid them nothing.

"Video Communications has not been engaged by any responsible officer of the FNM and we are not aware that any of our consultants in the U.S. have authorized this company to register as our agents. We will await Sir Lynden's "documents" proving the contrary.

BRIEFS

CRIME WATCH GROUPS--CHARLES Carter, MP for Holy Cross, has announced the formation of three new crime watch associations for the protection of the area. These recently-formed associations are centred in Highbury Park, Gleniston Gardens and Nassau Village. The Sea Breeze Crime Watch Association has been a very effective forerunner of community organizations that are designed to help neighbourhoods become crime preventive and to improve security, Mr Carter said. It has also become a useful and effective mechanism for improving community relationships and to instil a "sense of community," among people who live there, Mr Carter said. However, long before the Sea Breeze Crime Watch Association was formed, Blair and Montagu had very active and effective crime watch groups. Mr Carter congratulated those residents who have become active members of the associations. He invited all responsible citizens in the area to join and help create a safer environment. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 May 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/882

NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCE AS EXPORTS TO TRINIDAD FALL

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 May 84 p 2

[Text] Barbados has reported an Bds\$8.9 million unfavourable trade balance with Trinidad and Tobago, its biggest Caribbean market, for last January.

According to figures released by the state-run Export Promotion Corporation (EPC), this represented a worsening of their trade position. The unfavourable balance was \$2.4 million in January last year.

Last January, Barbados sold Trinidad and Tobago \$5.1 million worth of goods (compared with \$7.2 million for the same month last year) while it brought \$14 million worth. This island spent \$9.6 million on Trinidad and Tobago goods in January 1983.

Exports to Jamaica in January this year fetched \$568 423 against \$950 058 for the same month last year. Imports last January were put at \$1.4 million down on the January 1983 figure of \$1.8 million.

Barbados exports to Guyana, this country's main South American market, dropped from \$211 462 in January 1983 to \$189 720 for the same month this year, while imports rose from \$131 090 in January last year to \$549 607 for the same month this year.

Barbados exports to the Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs) of the region during the first month of this year were up mainly in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada. Sales to Antigua and Barbuda moved from \$237 937 in January last year to \$438 230 for January this year and imports from \$53 778 in January 1983 to \$69 593 in January this year.

Exports to Dominica in January this year fetched \$222 126 compared with \$191 846 for the same month last year, while imports stood at \$126 460 last January against \$46 491 in January 1983.

Exports to Grenada rose from \$370 430 in January 1983 to \$466 426 while imports from Grenada rose from \$16 517 to \$73 686.

Barbados exported less to Belize, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Exports to non-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries--the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and others--

increased by \$18.2 million from \$18.9 million in January last year to \$37.1 million for the same month this year. Imports went from \$91 million to \$93.8 million.

Exports to the United Kingdom in January this year stood at \$263 568 against \$230 258 in January 1983 while imports stood at \$8.8 million for the same month in 1983-84.

Exports to Canada in January 1984 totalled \$324 636 compared with \$390 445 in January 1983 while imports dropped from \$6.3 million to \$5 million this year.

CSO: 3298/851

WAGE ISSUES, UNION-GOVERNMENT CONTENTION CONTINUE TO SMOLDER

Government Pay Bill

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 3 May 84 p 1

[Text] A bill being introduced in the Barbados House of Assembly next Tuesday does not seek to increase the total emoluments of the Prime Minister and other Ministers.

The bill provides for the following:

--The Prime Minister's annual housing allowance of \$15 600 a year, which is now non-taxable, will be abolished and will be integrated into his basic salary.

His basic taxable salary will, therefore, move to \$85 200 and there will be no increase in his entertainment allowance.

Overall, the total remuneration and allowances of the Prime Minister will not be increased.

--The annual travel allowance of the Deputy Prime Minister will be abolished, and instead, he will be provided with an official car. The travel allowance will be integrated in his new basic salary of \$72 000 a year.

The bill does not attempt to increase the salaries and allowances of the other Government ministers, which now stand at \$70 716 a year. This is made up as follows:

Annual basic salary--\$49 812.

Annual entertainment allowance--\$8 640.

Annual travel allowance--\$12 264.

--The bill also does not attempt to increase the salaries and allowances of the parliamentary secretaries, which now stand at \$45 216 a year. This is made up as follows:

Annual basic salary--\$30 816.

Annual entertainment allowance--\$5 760.

Annual travel allowance--\$ 8 640.

Adams on Union Demands

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 6 May 84 p 40

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams said he would not waste his breath to ask the trade unions in Barbados for a wage freeze to keep people in work.

He was speaking on Friday night during a television and radio interview with Voice of Barbados (VOB), Mr David Ellis, who sought the Prime Minister's reaction to a wage freeze as a means of helping to keep Barbadians in their jobs, and perhaps generate more opportunities for those now on the breadline.

Mr Adams said the trade union movement in Barbados, had long ago rejected low wages as a means of fighting unemployment.

He added that unemployment in communist countries was controlled by paying people low wages. He pointed out that the minimum wage in Cuba was about \$56 a month, which would not be acceptable for a two-days-a-week gardener in Barbados.

"This method of fighting unemployment would not work in Barbados, because the trade unions prefer high wages to employment. They like the people in work to have jobs," Mr Adams said.

The Prime Minister added that the Governor of the Central Bank, Dr Courtney Blackman, had made an important point in explaining to workers that they could price themselves out of a job.

Mr Adams said this point of view must constantly be kept before the unions' representatives.

"I have recently seen some signs--I am not speaking of the public service union--I am speaking of the Barbados Workers' Union and unions in other industries--that a certain realism has entered into wage negotiations in major industries."

BWU Resolutions

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 2

[Paid advertisement "The Union Speaks" by Frank L. Wolcott, general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union: "May Day 1984: Past Achievements, New Challenges"]

[Excerpt] We could not allow this May Day to pass without placing on record our unqualified thanks to all our members and friends who have rallied to our cause throughout the period and have shared with us some of the victories we have achieved. We now place on record our support for the following resolutions to mark this May Day. We call on our colleagues on this 7th May, 1984, by unanimous accord, to give full support to the following Resolutions in the name of all of our members:

Unemployment

(1) Whereas there has been a rapid increase in unemployment and underemployment over the past year

And whereas the Government of Barbados and the private sector have contributed heavily to unemployment through their policy of terminating the services of workers on a wide scale

And whereas the right to a job is a social right which should be enjoyed by all people, and

Recognising that unemployment leads to social discontent and poses a serious threat to the social fabric of our community.

Be it resolved that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 7th May 1984, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall, St. Michael.

Calls upon the Government of Barbados to take direct and immediate steps to encourage and facilitate expansion of employment in the private and public sectors of our national economy.

(2) Housing

Whereas it is becoming extremely difficult for Barbadians of the middle and lower-income levels to purchase their own homes.

And whereas the provision of proper housing and the maintenance of the existing housing stock of the country are matters of grave importance to the country's development and the welfare of the people.

Be it resolved that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 7th May 1984, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall, St. Michael

Calls upon the Government of Barbados to set aside a sizeable portion of its revenue for direct investment in housing in order to provide more houses for middle and lower-income workers in our country.

(3) Job Security and Workers' Rights

Whereas the right to job security is a fundamental right of workers,

And whereas some employers in Barbados are attempting to deprive workers of this right through arbitrary and unjust acts of dismissal.

And whereas such practices are not in the best interest of the industrial relations climate in our country.

Be it resolved that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 7th May 1984, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall, St. Michael.

Reiterates its stand in support of the protection of job security for workers and

Pledges its resistance to all attempts by employers to arbitrarily and unreasonably deprive workers of the right to work.

Unemployment Figures

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] Unemployment in Barbados rose by just over one percent, with the number of people in jobs falling by 1 400 in the first quarter of this year compared with the corresponding period last year, according to official statistics released here.

A Government statement said the latest data showed that the unemployed as a percentage of the labour force for January to March 1984 stood at 15.7 percent as compared with 14.6 percent for 1983.

The number of persons employed, at 95 400 showed a decline from the figure of 96 900 for the equivalent 1983 period. Some 54 300 males, and 41 100 females were employed during the review period.

The number of adults increased from 175 000 in the first quarter of 1983 to 176 500 during 1984. The labour force declined marginally from 113 500 persons for January to March 1983 to 113 200 for the review period, while those adults not included in the labour force increased from 62 000 to 63 300 persons.

As a result of the small drop in the labour force as well as the increase in the number of adults, the adult participation in the labour force dropped marginally from 64.7 percent to 64.1 percent over the review period.

Walcott May Day Address

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 May 84 p 1

[Text] TRADE union leader, Mr. Frank Walcott, has not had a salary increase in four years.

This disclosure was contained in his prepared address for yesterday's May Day celebrations in response to what he labelled the "blandishments" of the Prime Minister.

Noting that the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) had gone on record as saying it could not accept a method where politicians' salaries should be increased at the same rate and through the same measures as those of civil servants, he said:

"... And when that increase is tied, not just to the same level as the top civil servant but, also, to the civil servant at the bottom when across the board

increases are called for, we cannot remark too much on the inequities and injustice of such a method."

Mr. Walcott said he had nothing to hide and that he had had no increase in salary for four years because he understood the problems that workers in Barbados have been experiencing.

He continued: "I can say, and the Prime Minister well knows, that my salary has never been in the league with that of political leaders and the commercial leaders in Bridgetown; so his talk about wage cuts or wage freezes for trade union leaders can only be made in the context of pandering to the feeling of the unknowing in our midst."

Mr. Walcott also said the union found it less than diplomatic for a prime minister to defend the system where he had included housing allowance in his pensionable emoluments and would be moving into a state-owned house for which, no doubt, Parliament will be asked to provide funds for its maintenance.

"... But to try to pass to the public that he has been so noble that he has taken a cut in his salary when, in fact, the house allowance will become part of his pensionable emoluments... and we all know that a prime minister has to work only one day in his office to qualify for a pension! But how magnanimous of the Prime Minister to suggest that he has taken a cut of just over \$500!"

BWU Offer To Talk

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 May 84 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) is ready to sit with political leaders, economic leaders and social leaders to chart a path for national reconstruction.

This was the message yesterday from BWU general secretary, Mr Frank Walcott, in a prepared message to mark May Day celebrations at the union's Solidarity House headquarters.

His call came after he had expressed deep concern about the state of unemployment in the country which he felt was responsible for the recent spate of robberies and the increase in crimes against the person.

He also issued a warning to Government to put the people back to work by injecting more money into the economy "to take up those idle hands."

He charged: "The state cannot renege on its responsibility to create employment by making any spurious claims that the level of wages of workers will affect the level of employment."

According to Mr Walcott, the unemployment level is a cause of concern to the BWU when over 16 000 people are out of work.

He continued: "As trade unionists we do not see these figures as an abstraction; we have to deal with the persons. We know that their incomes are consumption incomes and we know when these incomes are cut off what it means to the workers, who in most cases, have large families to support."

Mr Walcott noted that 17 000 persons out of work must mean a dampening on the economy of the country. In addition to that, the workers who had been placed on week-on, week-off or who had been given two and three-day weeks, had grown in numbers over the past years.

He stressed: "...And these, added to the unemployed, can only mean a spectre of social discontent in the country. I daresay the recent increase in crimes against the person, the recent spate of robberies can be traced to growing unemployment and the resulting social malaise in our country...."

The general secretary also said that as business closed down, as they declared that they could not pay income tax and corporation tax and withheld the BWU and indicated that as workers were laid off and made unemployed, this could have an impact on the country.

"We warned Government that the policy of wage freeze would withdraw funds from the economy that would have a bad effect on the overall performance of the economy. We are now seeing the results of such short-sighted policy and we have not seen the end of it yet."

Mr Walcott warned: "We have to keep our eyes on tourism in which hotels are being sold for not paying their land taxes. We would have to look and see what will happen to this sector as visitor arrivals are shown to be decreasing as well as the length of stay of visitors.

"And we cannot feel that the growing spate of crimes, rapes against visitors and attacks by gun and knife carriers against visitors will help tourism to flourish," he said.

Criticism of Government Priorities

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 May 84 p 2

[Text]

The Central Bank headquarters now under construction and the large number of unemployed people were seen as cause for concern during Monday's May Day Celebrations at Solidarity House, Harmony Hall.

The celebrations organised by the Barbados Workers Union at its new headquarters in Bridgetown were to mark the workers' traditional "day of reflection" and to look ahead.

It was the first time that May Day was being celebrated on a day other than May 1. The Barbados Labour Party Government from this year changed the day to the first Monday in May.

Mr. Walcott told the large crowd which turned up for the celebrations that millions of dollars were being channelled in the wrong direction by Government. He pointed to the new Central Bank building as an example of money going the wrong way.

"I know that \$60 million can do a lot more in housing for this country than it can to put up a monstrosity in Roebuck Street called the Central

Bank in order to satisfy the vanity of people who want to say we have the highest building in the Eastern Caribbean," he said.

"That is the sort of thing that I am opposed to because Barbados does not possess the economy to spend \$60 million on one little building...to rent out the offices to people who, they claim, are looking about for buildings."

The new Central Bank under construction previously came in for criticism from the union and on Sunday Canon Sehon Goodridge also criticised the construction of this building when so many people were in need of housing.

Mr. Walcott told the large crowd at Solidarity House that the BWU was ready to sit down with political, economic and social leaders in this country to chart a path for national reconstruction.

Dealing with the problem of unemployment, the BWU General Secretary said Government should put people back to work by injecting more money into the economy "to take up those idle hands."

He said that with 17 000 people out of work there must be a dampening effect on the economy of the country. Along with the unemployed were the workers who had been placed on a week-on week-off basis or had been put on short weeks, and whose numbers had grown over the years.

He warned that these, added to the unemployed, "can only mean a spectre of social discontent in the country. I daresay the recent increase in crimes against the person, the recent spate of robberies can be traced to the growing unemployment and the resulting social malaise in our country."

CRIME, ARSON WORRY POLICE; PUBLIC ASKED TO HELP

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] Police in Barbados yesterday launched an all out drive to combat a serious upsurge in violent crime which has been sweeping the country since the start of this year.

Senior officers from the Criminal Investigation Department, led by acting Assistant Commissioner Keith Whittaker and his deputy superintendent Sylvester Williams are out in the field trying to close the dragnet on the armed robbers.

The latest incident in the spate of armed robberies occurred on Friday night in St Philip when three armed bandits entered the Seaview home of supermarket proprietor, Mr Eric Drayton and made off with an undisclosed sum of money. They were also reported as having got away with his revolver.

The robbers did not leave before inflicting some injury on their victims. Mr Drayton received a few cuts to his head reported as being not too serious, while his wife suffered a broken arm.

Mr Drayton is the proprietor of Ric's Cash and Carry which is located in St. Philip.

Apart from this development in serious armed crimes there have been a number of other criminal activities which have been of great concern to the police. The theft of jewelry and household items and personal effects as well as the mysterious fires on the East Coast which have left at least seven houses razed to the ground.

Some \$255 000 in jewelry has been reported stolen during the first three months of this year as compared with just over \$142 000 for the corresponding period in 1983.

The Police who have noticed a pattern in most of the crime want property owners to place identifying marks on their items, while insurance companies which have had to pay out big sums in claims are said to be looking at minimum standards of security before offering insurance on household and personal effects.

Mr Whittaker has also called on the public to help curb the incidence of crime by being more cautious and also by helping the police in their investigations.

A number of prime suspects have reportedly been identified in some of the major robberies which have taken place this year, but no one has yet been brought to justice.

The Police are worried about the violent crime especially since the force under Commissioner Orville Durant has been able to bring this type of crime under control in recent years.

CSO: 3298/852

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO UK--Specialist physician, Dr Harold Forde, is to be Barbados' new High Commissioner to London. Authoritative sources have stated that his appointment has been approved by Cabinet and he should take up position in a matter of weeks. He will succeed Mr Algy Symmonds, who has returned to the island as a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Security. Mr Harold Brewster, Minister-Counsellor at the London office has been acting as High Commissioner since Mr Symmond's return home. Dr Forde, a member of the Privy Council and a member of the Lions Club of Barbados, has had an outstanding medical career. His appointment to the post of High Commissioner in London comes at a time when Barbadians resident there have been expecting much from their diplomatic representatives because of the many social economic and racial problems they have been facing. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 1]

TEACHER SALARIES--Government has promised the Barbados Secondary Teacher's Union (BSTU) that it has "under consideration" the union's request for further discussion on salary increases and the question of uncertified sick days. This was stated yesterday by BSTU secretary Mr Patrick Frost. He said that Government's response was in reaction to a BSTU letter seeking further talks on the issue. Mr Frost said that regarding uncertified sick days the BSTU was "adamantly opposed" to any reduction in the present 21 days granted for this. He declared that if Government went ahead with plans to institute any reductions to "between 6 and 21 days," and imposed sanctions on teachers who were appointed before the new Education Act came into force, the BSTU would be advising and fully supporting its members in "their recourse to the law." [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 May 84 p 1]

COTTON SUCCESS--Barbados' 1983-84 cotton season has been "partially successful" and the Ministry of Agriculture is planning to intensify its efforts to revitalise the industry. Chief Agricultural Officer, Dr Lionel Smith, told THE NATION that despite the early problems in the industry, growers had managed to reap some cotton. According to him there were some early problems, including a late planting and a prolonged dry-spell, but they had still managed to produce a reasonable quantity of cotton. "We are planning to make a bigger thing of the next crop and we would like all Barbadians to observe the 'close season' and destroy any residual cotton that has not been reaped and any wild cotton which might be growing around their lands. If they know of wild cotton that is not on their land, then they should inform us. "We had hoped to plant 200 acres in the last crop but ended up with roughly 100. This

year we want to get the seeds planted early, around August 2 or 3 and plant between 200 and 300 acres of Sea Island Cotton," Dr Smith said. He revealed that between 40 000 and 50 000 pounds of cotton, including seeds, had been harvested from about 100 acres. He said it was possible for Barbados to have a viable cotton industry again, since although some of the planters had "a disastrous crop" this year, others had done quite well. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 May 84 p 1]

CHICKEN PRICES--Government has granted an increase in the price of chicken--after months of heated debate on whether the price should be increased, and threats of a possible collapse of the industry. According to the Price Control Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the price increase will take effect from today. The retail price of whole chicken goes from \$2.52 per pound for whole birds, to \$2.80 per pound and \$6.17 per kilogram. Chicken quarters will now be retailed at \$2.56 per pound or \$6.26 per kilogram. The Price Control Division said that the increase came in the wake of representation from local poultry farmers, through their umbrella body, the Barbados Egg and Poultry Producers Association. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 May 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/853

PEMBROKE WEST BY-ELECTION WON BY UBP CANDIDATE

Broadcasting Violation Charge

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 May 84 p 2

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party last night charged that the Political Broadcasting Directions were being violated by Radio VSB.

In a written statement, the PLP complained the radio station was violating the directions by airing political broadcasts as "community service broadcasts."

"The Broadcast Directions of 1980 direct that a broadcast promoting the election of candidates must be defined as a political broadcast, and must be identified as such, along with the political party sponsoring the broadcast," said the PLP.

"This has not been happening at VSB, and we have noted a number of instances where the identification announcement has not appeared on Bermuda Broadcasting television stations as well."

The PLP said it understood that Attorney General Mr. Saul Froomkin had ruled that the broadcasting companies were only obliged to adhere to the Political Broadcasting Directions if they actually

aired political broadcasts.

"In other words — there is no 'half-way house'. Once a station begins to air the broadcasts, it must strictly adhere to the Directions," said the PLP.

Mr. Froomkin last night declined to comment on the statement. Chairman of the Broadcasting Commissioners, Dr. Stanley Ratteray, could not be contacted for comment.

The PLP called on the Broadcasting Commissioners to make a "clear and coherent" statement on the current situation after having taken advice from the Attorney General.

"In the final analysis, the Direction must be revised so that the final say on whether either political party can air paid or unpaid political broadcasts does not rest on the whims of individual station managers," said the PLP.

"Instead, the public's right to unfettered information (must be) firmly protected."

UBP Candidate on Hong Kong

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 15 May 84 p 1

[Text]

Bermuda should actively campaign in Hong Kong to convince businesses there that the Island is an ideal place to relocate.

That was the message from Dr. Clarence Terceira, United Bermuda Party candidate in the Pembroke West by-election to be held on Thursday.

He was speaking at a public meeting held at the Pembroke Community Club, and attended by about 150 parish residents and party faithful.

Dr. Terceira urged Government to seize the opportunity created by the uncertainty surrounding the future of the British Colony

which may come under communist China control in 1997.

He said the recent decision by Hong Kong's largest company, Jardine Matheson, to move its headquarters to Bermuda was an indication that an opportunity to diversify Bermuda's business base existed.

"Let us not just sit back and hope other companies will follow," said Dr. Terceira. "Let's send a team to Hong Kong. Let's market Bermuda in Hong Kong. Let's take advantage of the nervousness of their businesses."

Dr. Terceira said the Island's economic and political stability argued in favour

of the Island as an international centre.

Also speaking at the meeting was Premier the Hon. John Swan. Mr. Swan pledged both his own support, and that of the Government for Dr. Terceira.

He said the by-election on Thursday was an opportunity for Bermudians to re-affirm the mandate given the UBP in the last election.

"The statement on Thursday will be one of whether or not the country is satisfied with the UBP Government — that's the statement we are asking you to make," said Mr. Swan.

Dr. Terceira made just two promises should he be elected to the House of Assembly. He would hold a meeting similar to the one

held last night in exactly 100 days to report the progress he had made.

"The second commitment is that I will live up to my responsibility as the representative of not only you, but all Bermudians," said Dr. Terceira.

"I will attend sessions of the House of Assembly, and not go off to Washington for two years. I am a man of my word."

Dr. Terceira was referring to his opponent in the by-election, Mr. Calvin Smith, who had represented the Progressive Labour Party in Hamilton West, only to later lose his seat.

While an MP, Mr. Smith had gone to the United States to further his education.

PLP Man on Parish Councils

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 84 p 1

[Text]

A system of elected parish councils would help end the resistance Government found when it tried to press on with schemes without consultation, Pembroke West constituents were told last night.

Mr. Calvin Smith, the Progressive Labour Party's candidate in tomorrow's by-election, repeated his call for parish council's at a public meeting.

He said people in Pembroke West and Bermuda as a whole were generally hard-working and independent citizens who did things for themselves.

But, he went on, they felt an increasing frustration when simple jobs such as better road conditions and street lighting were slow in coming or never tackled at all by Government.

"It is my view that the institution of elected parish councils would enable Bermudians to participate fully in the government decision-making process," Mr. Smith said.

That way, the PLP candidate continued, problems such as where to locate the dump or bus garage would get an airing by people who truly represented the views of constituents and Government would have a more accurate picture of people's feelings.

"With a system of elected parish councils, the community can volunteer its point of view," Mr. Smith said, "and Government would not be running into these storms when its tries to operate a programme."

The Opposition Party yesterday also attacked Mr.

Smith's UBP rival in the by-election, Dr. Clarence Terceira, for making a personal attack on Mr. Smith.

The PLP was referring to comments made by Dr. Terceira on Monday night.

"I will attend sessions of the House of Assembly, and not go off to Washington for two years. I am a man of my word," said Dr. Terceira.

He was referring to Mr. Smith who had gone to the United States to further his education while a PLP MP.

The PLP countered: "The inconsistency and contradiction inherent in these attacks are highlighted by the double standards applied when UBP MP Dr. John Stubbs studied overseas for a prolonged period while holding a seat in the House of Assembly."

Poll Results

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The voters of Pembroke West yesterday elected United Bermuda Party candidate Dr. Clarence (Tessie) Terceira to the House of Assembly with a majority of 536.

After a light turnout — just 69 percent — Dr. Terceira polled 840 votes against 324 for his Progressive Labour Party opponent, Mr. Calvin Smith. Eight ballot papers were spoiled.

This represented 71.7 percent in favour of Dr. Terceira against 27.7 for Mr. Smith and UBP representatives were claiming last night that this was a swing in their favour.

The vote was caused by the resignation of former Finance Minister Mr. David Gibbons and maintains the UBP's 26 to 14 majority in the House of Assembly.

A UBP spokesman said that discounting the spoiled ballot papers, the party had polled 67 percent of the vote in a 1980 by-election in Pembroke West, 73 percent in last year's General Election and 73 percent yesterday.

This he compared to 33 percent for the PLP in 1980, and 27 percent last year and yesterday.

Before the polls closed one senior PLP member was in-

dicating that his party would consider 25 percent of the vote to be par for the course, particularly in a constituency where it did not have great machinery and on a day when there was only a light turnout.

After hearing the result a jubilant Dr. Terceira said he was delighted for the UBP and for himself.

"The people of Pembroke West have made a decision that says to the Government: 'Carry on with what you are doing. You are on the right track and you are a good Government.'"

He said of his opponent: "I have known Calvin for a while and I think perhaps he is disappointed in the numbers because he has not made any inroads. He must be disappointed, as must the PLP."

A subdued Mr. Smith commented: "I lost, what else is there to say? It wasn't as good as I had hoped but much more than that I cannot say."

"I congratulate Dr. Terceira, he worked hard and got what he deserved."

Premier, the Hon. John Swan broke off from his celebrations to say he found the result encouraging and personally gratifying. He noted that Mr. Smith "barely managed to achieve the level of rejection" achieved by PLP candidates in the General Election and had not done as well as the candidate in the 1980 by-election.

"I want to thank the people of Pembroke West for their endorsement of the good work of this Government and the reaffirmation of the mandate given us in 1983. Tessie Terceira is someone I look forward to having on my team."

The poll turnout was 1,172.

How they voted

Clarence Terceira.. 840
Calvin Smith.....324
Spoiled..... 8

February 1983 General
Election result: Bill
McPhee (UBP) 1,038;
David Gibbons (UBP)
1,036; Rita Peniston (PLP)
381, Doreen Lightbourne
(PLP) 368.

PLP DRAFT LEGISLATION OFFERS ELECTION LAW CHANGES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Proposals for major changes to Bermuda's election laws were introduced into Parliament yesterday by the Progressive Labour Party.

In an unusual move, the Opposition has drafted its own piece of legislation designed to "give teeth to" the Parliamentary Election Act of 1978.

The Parliamentary Election Amendment (No.2) Bill 1984 was brought into the House of Assembly by Mr. Frederick Wade, Shadow Minister of Labour and Home Affairs.

The Opposition legislation — proposing a lower voting age, longer polling hours and strengthening of registration procedures — was given its first reading by the House of Assembly yesterday and now takes its place on the Parliamentary business paper.

According to Mr. John Gilbert, Clerk to the Legislature, it is rare for the Opposition to take its own bills into Parliament, particularly legislation relating to such technical matters.

Mr. Gilbert said that the last piece of legislation introduced by the PLP concerned amendments to the Public Holidays Act in 1982. Debate on Mr. Wade's proposed changes to the law would not take place until all the Government-initiated

business currently before the House had been completed, Mr. Gilbert said.

It was probable that the Parliamentary Election Amendment (No.2) Act would not be dealt with during the current session of the Parliament.

The Opposition legislation — foreshadowed by Mr. Wade last week — was introduced to the Parliament on the day that the House concluded its discussion of the Government's own proposed amendments to the Parliamentary Election Act.

The major elements of the PLP's draft legislation are proposals to lower the voting age from 21 years to 18 years and procedural and administrative changes to tighten up on compulsory voter registration.

Under Mr. Wade's bill, the Parliamentary Registrar (or any registration officer) would be required to visit the home of every eligible voter who has failed to register and register them in April each year.

The Parliamentary Registrar would also be required not only to 'publish' voters' lists in public places, but also to have them printed — parish by parish — in the newspaper during June each year.

The PLP's draft legislation also would extend the

hours during which voters could cast their ballot from the present provision of 10 am to 7 pm to 8 am to 8 pm.

Mr. Wade told The Royal Gazette yesterday that the Opposition's bill was in the main designed to lower the voting age and to give teeth to the existing legislative provisions for voter registration.

"We believe that the onus should be put on the Parliamentary Register to take every possible step to ensure that every person who is eligible to vote is registered to do so," he said.

"This involves keeping the register of voters constantly under review and up to date and affording the public every opportunity to check to see that they are so registered."

During yesterday's discussion of the Government's proposed amendments to the Parliamentary Election Act, the Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, said that he had made a slight alteration to the clause concerning voter identification cards.

Under the proposed Government legislation, the val-

idity of voter identification cards is to be extended from three to ten years and they are to be available to all eligible voters.

Sir John said it had been proposed that members of the voting public who already possessed any other acceptable identification document would be asked to pay a fee to cover administrative costs if they also wanted a voter identification card.

However, the question of a fee had now been reconsidered and it had been decided that there would be no charge for anyone wishing to obtain a voter identification card.

Sir John also agreed to give consideration to views raised by Opposition members that the proposed fee for election scrutineers, of \$7.50 per meeting, as scheduled in the Parliamentary Election Amendment Rules, should be more substantial.

Mr. Wade said that scrutineers often had to work very hard and for up to 12 hours at a time. "It may well be that a flat-rate payment would be more appropriate," he said.

SENATE WARNED ON IMPACT OF CRIME ON TOURISM

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Text]

Dire warnings were sounded in the Senate yesterday of a bleak future for Bermuda unless the current spate of vicious crimes against tourists is quickly curbed.

Government Senators predicted that if the crime wave continued it would lead to the destruction of a substantial part of the Island's economic foundation.

And an Independent member, Sen. Arnott Jackson, called on the people of Bermuda to accept that Draconian measures were necessary to bring the culprits of these crimes to justice.

Sen. Llewellyn Peniston (UBP) said that crimes against tourists were tantamount to the destruction of a substantial portion of the economic foundation of Bermuda.

"No doubt you will have noted the extremely vicious and cowardly nature of these crimes, purportedly carried out by a marauding gang of youths, which suggests a very bleak future for this community if such crimes, perpetrated by a growing number of our young people, are not readily curbed," Sen. Peniston said.

The Police had appealed for assistance from the public in their quest to stop the growing menace of vicious crimes against tourists, he said.

"I would urge a non-partisan expression of support from Senators in this regard."

Sen. Paul Leseur (UBP) supported the remarks made by his colleague.

"This matter is one of very grave concern for all of us, and it is essential for the community that we remove this cancer which is creeping in," he said.

Other tourist spots had suffered badly because their visitors had been frightened off.

"I hope that everyone will make an effort to report these misdemeanors to the Police."

Sen. Jackson recalled a debate which had taken place six or seven years ago when petty crime was increasing, which

was headlined "kid gloves off".

"It seems urgent to me that the people, with one voice, accept that Draconian measures are necessary to bring the full force of the legal process to bear against the people who commit these crimes against visitors to our community."

The Police were charged with all kinds of mishandling when they dealt with someone in the only manner left to them for dealing with young people who had been deprived of parental guidance and discipline, Sen. Jackson said.

"This situation cannot be stated too harshly," he said. "The community must stand behind its noise with its actions."

U.S. MISSILE LANDING SPARKS QUESTIONS, PLP PROTEST

Issue of Advance Notification

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 May 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The controversial Pershing-2 missile that landed "just south" of Bermuda on Wednesday actually fell 55 miles inside the Island's 200-mile offshore economic zone.

Yesterday Bermuda's Nuclear Awareness Group expressed horror at the news and demanded a full investigation.

And US Consul General Mr. William Dixon Boggs, although stressing that the missile was unarmed and had landed safely in empty seas, said he had since requested that the US state and military authorities inform Bermuda of any future tests likely to affect the Island's waters.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the US Army said the tests would continue, although he could not say whether Bermuda's offshore zone would be affected again.

The issue of whether Bermuda was informed about this week's test firing took a twist yesterday.

Premier the Hon. John Swan said on Thursday and repeated yesterday that Government had not been told about the test.

Harbour Radio has also been reported as saying it had heard no messages that

might have affected mariners in the area.

However, Lt. Col. James Moore of the Eastern Space and Missile Centre in Florida said messages were sent out to airmen and mariners on May 9 warning that the area was designated a test site and was restricted for a period of time.

"One of the addressees of that message was the Naval Air Station in Bermuda," Col. Moore said.

"About two days later we received a reply from them indicating approval."

Captain Donald Gentry, NAS commander in Bermuda, was puzzled by that.

"I don't know of any such message," he told *The Royal Gazette*.

He said he was not informed of all messages and it may have been dealt with by someone else.

"But I will certainly look into it."

The Nuclear Awareness Group called on Government to "fully investigate the incident and other weapons testing which apparently has been carried out in the Bermuda area."

The group wondered whether the US had contravened international law by encroaching on the 200-

mile zone or whether it had any permission to do so.

Premier the Hon. John Swan, who said on Thursday he was sure Bermuda would have been consulted if there was to be any encroachment of territorial waters, commented yesterday that he had no prior knowledge of the firing.

He said the missile was unarmed and he understood it did not land within the 12-mile territorial waters zone.

"However, I have since been made to understand by the US Consul General that that there will be an undertaking to keep us informed should there be any such firings within the 200-mile economic zone," the Premier said.

Mr. Dixon Boggs said this week's launch was an unclassified operation.

"It landed 145 miles south of Bermuda. The tests will continue and we hope in future to give some advance notice," he said.

"There was no notice this time. In fact, there have been several tests and no one has said anything," the Consul General went on.

"It is a big stretch of ocean between Bermuda and the Bahamas and that missile is accurate to within 100

metres, so I don't think we need worry too much about 145 miles.

"There is absolutely no danger whatsoever. It was not armed."

The Nuclear Awareness Group wanted to know, however, what would happen if such a missile malfunctioned, went off course and headed for Bermuda, armed or otherwise.

"Let's face it, we are strategically located with at least three foreign military establishments," a spokesman said.

"It is high time both Government and all Bermudians stop pretending that the arms race and nuclear

weapons won't affect us and start acquainting ourselves with the issues."

Mr. David Harris, of the Redstone Arsenal public relations office in Alabama — the Pershing programme is based at Redstone — said there had been 10 Pershing tests over the past two years.

Neither he nor Col. Moore could say whether any of them had landed in Bermuda waters, although Mr. Harris said the test distances varied and the missile landings were normally "well south of Bermuda."

He said the Pershing-2 missile had had some teething problems but its guidance system was not one of them.

"That is one of the most accurate, systems designed by Man," he said.

Both he and Col. Moore said there were more tests scheduled over the next few months.

"They will be in the same general area," Col. Moore said.

He said it would be safe to assume that Mr. Dixon Boggs' request for prior notice of any firings affecting Bermuda waters would be complied with.

At present, he said, the Eastern Space and Missile Centre had not had any direct contact with the Bermuda Government.

PLP 'Shock'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 May 84 p 5

[Text]

Shadow Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade, yesterday said he was "very shocked" to hear about Thursday's test firing of a US Army Pershing-2 missile.

The missile, which was not carrying a warhead, landed within Bermuda's 200-mile fishing zone, it was learned yesterday, *see Page 1*.

Mr. Wade said he hoped the US Government would in future have the courtesy to inform Premier the Hon. John Swan in advance about such practice firings.

"That way, the next time a missile is fired, he will at least be able to warn us to duck," he said.

"I think it's simply a matter of courtesy that the Premier should know about these things.

"There could easily be a misfiring, or a computer could go wrong, and the results would be disastrous."

Mr. Swan replied that contrary to what was published in the weekend papers, the missile never encroached on Bermuda's territorial waters — which only extended 12 miles from the Island.

But the Premier confirmed that he had spoken to US Consul General Mr. William Dixon Boggs about the matter.

"He has given the undertaking that he will keep me informed about any further activities that might ensue in the Atlantic," he said.

"I just want to assure the Bermuda public that the Government is aware of what has taken place, and that it will act to ensure that Bermuda's safety is kept intact."

Demand for 'Advance Permission'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 31 May 84 p 4

[Text]

Bermuda's permission should be sought before any nuclear missiles were fired within 200 miles of the Island, Opposition Senator David Allen said.

He claimed Bermuda had unwittingly become part of the nuclear arms race, with the landing of a Pershing-2 missile south of the Island earlier this month.

They had been informed

that the US Consul General had stated that Bermuda would be informed of any such future firing taking place within Bermuda's 200-mile zone, he said, and that the Premier was satisfied with the position.

Sen. Allen said that the Opposition was not satisfied with the Consul General's statement, or with the Premier's satisfaction.

"We believe that Ber-

muda's permission should be sought before any missiles are sent," he said.

He said it was time that the Government made representations through the British Foreign Office that Bermuda was not pleased with the current situation and would like to be asked in advance if it agreed to future missile firings.

PLP Proposals

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

The guidance system of the United States Pershing-2 missile that landed just 145 miles off Bermuda last month malfunctioned just seconds before the dummy warhead hit the Atlantic Ocean, it was learned yesterday.

The news brought a swift response from Leader of the Opposition Mrs. Lois Browne Evans who called on the US to stop test firing the missile in the local area until details of the failure were revealed.

Mrs. Browne Evans also called for an immediate tripartite meeting between herself, Governor Viscount Dunrossil and Premier the Hon. John Swan to discuss the matter.

"I am very distressed that Bermudians and Bermuda could have been used as virtual guinea pigs in an experiment of this kind," said Mrs. Browne Evans.

"I am calling for a meeting between the Governor, the Premier and myself at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss this grave situation and what steps should be taken to avoid a recurrence."

The US Army Missile Command said yesterday that the guidance system of the Pershing-2 missile launched May 16 malfunctioned seconds before the dummy warhead hit its target area.

The Pershing-2 blasted off at 10:31 a.m. EDT from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida and streaked 850 miles to impact in the Atlantic Ocean at a point 55 miles within Bermuda's 200-mile offshore economic zone.

Acting Premier the Hon. Clarence James expressed surprise over yesterday's news, and said that Government would look into the matter. He declined to comment further until more details were available.

Dr. James also declined to comment on the proposed tripartite meeting.

"At this point I can't say where the Opposition will be included in the inquiries, if at all," he said. "It's a delicate constitutional position we are in."

US Consul General Mr. William Dixon Boggs could not be contacted for comment last night.

SWAN ACCUSED OF ACCRUING POWER, DISMANTLING GOVERNMENT

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 20 Apr 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Recently, John David Gibbons resigned as Minister of Finance. John Swan appointed Clarence James as the new Minister of Finance and Charles T. Collis as Minister of Health and Social Services, replacing Dr. James.

This seemingly innocuous shift of ministers has caused much buzzing around the Island. Some view the shift as John Swan's effort to show that the Party is unified and that blacks have real power within the UBP. Others claim that the move is mere window dressing and that Gibbons will still control the country's finances.

Our view is that the foregoing judgements are naive. We believe that the Gibbons move out of Government represents a natural progression, as blacks in the UBP increase their control over Government. However, in the process of acquiring this control, they have had to trade away much of Government's traditional powers.

These are harsh words. Surely, Mr. Swan's power has increased? The British government has permitted more and more control over the police, and one can presume that Mr. Swan has considerable influence concerning appointments to the Judiciary.

Further, given the contests for national songs and the resplendent uniforms and spectacular drill routines of the local army, one can presume that Mr. Swan is about to lead this country out of the control of England and into the control of "God knows what"!

The intriguing question therefore, is why

some people still refer to Mr. Swan as a puppet, despite such obvious increases in power?

In our view, this conclusion is a result of Mr. Swan's apparent unwillingness to exercise power on behalf of the majority of Bermudians. The common view is that Mr. Swan acts this way because he is forced to do so. It seems to occur to very few that Mr. Swan is doing exactly what he wants to do.

GOVERNMENT WITHOUT "CLOUT"

Mr. Swan has seen the dismantling of central government, from an organisation with sufficient clout to manage this Island's economy, to an organisation designed to collect taxes, maintain law and order and diminish the role of welfare services.

The evidence of this dismantling is everywhere. It can be seen in the reduced role of the Ministry of Finance in the formulation of economic policy; the reduced powers of the Monetary Authority in the formulation of financial policy and the regulation of the country's money supply; the increased interference from the international community in the management of Bermuda's affairs; the refusal to set up information systems, to monitor independently the performance of the Bermuda economy; the continued total dependence on the private sector for economic intelligence.

Many see something sinister in Mr. Gibbons move to head up the Monetary Authority. We see it merely as a logical step in working out a new diminished role for the Monetary Authority, which will leave the private financial

community free of unwanted Government interference.

MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO

This is not to say that Government will have no influence over the banking sector — Government must still licence all banks, determine whether or not a foreign bank may operate locally, and influence the movement of funds in and out of Bermuda.

These are considerable powers in theory. However, without objective economic criteria upon which to base economic policy, Government must depend entirely upon dialogue with the financial community, for its economic intelligence and hence, the formulation of its economic policy. It is this dependence which results in glaring mismanagement of social policy, as evidenced by the continuing housing crises.

If these assumptions are valid, it is easy to appreciate the importance of Gibbons at the head of the Monetary Authority. He is wealthy, well connected in the local and international financial communities and can be trusted by all of these to protect their interests. Gibbons will have no problem communicating with the business community and hence in maintaining the status quo.

We can expect a formalisation of this communication process through the selection of the members of the Economic Advisory Committee, which will also be headed by David Gibbons.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

If the Committee is to be a serious monitoring device, we can expect its membership to be sprinkled liberally with bankers, accountants and lawyers, from the financial community, and one or two Union representatives.

If it is to be merely a debating forum from which to test public opinion on controversial policies, we may see a liberal sprinkling of lab-

our leaders, or even churchmen, and one or two businessmen.

If the Economic Advisory Committee is to be more than an exotic debating forum, it will need a sophisticated information system — a programme with which Bermuda's "enlightened" big businesses have refused to cooperate to date. Thus the important clue as to the real purpose of the Committee will be the role of the Statistical Office.

If Gibbons expects his Advisory Committee to be more than a debating forum, he will need economic intelligence gathered objectively. The chief statistician, a Canadian on loan from Statistics Canada, is an expert on the compilation of National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics in a fully integrated statistical environment. Thus, with Bob Richards gone, and the Monetary Authority in the middle of an extensive re-organisation, the timing could not be better for placing the Department of Statistics in a central role within the governmental information system.

In any event, if it is not planned to integrate the compilation of balance of payments and national accounts statistics, there can be no reason for extending the tenure of the Canadian chief statistician. The Bermudians in the office are more than capable of managing the growth of the department in its present role.

Whatever the outcome of the current Cabinet changes, two events will remain a mystery. Firstly, why did Clarence James, a senior minister, feel he was so much in need of guidance from Mr. Gibbons, in his new role as Minister of Finance?

Secondly, why did Mr. Collis, a junior minister, not express a similar need for guidance from Dr. James, in his new role as Minister of Health and Social Services?

LABOR DISPUTES SETTLED, BUT SOME CONTRACTORS BALK

Telco-BIU Pact

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 May 84 p 1

[Text]

More than 200 unionised workers at the Bermuda Telephone Company last night ratified a new two-year wage agreement following three months of what were described as difficult negotiations.

Agreement on the wage pact was reached by the two negotiating teams yesterday afternoon after two days of intensive talks.

Telephone Company workers met at the Leopards Club last night to ratify the tentative agreement.

"It's an agreement we can live with," said President of the Bermuda Industrial Union, Mr. Ottiwell Simmons MP, last night, confirming that ratification had taken place.

"Both sides sat down at the table with the skills required, and after some difficult areas, we managed to find solutions to the problems.

"The negotiations were tough, almost to the point of gruelling."

Mr. Simmons declined to reveal details of the agreement, but said they were in line with other contracts settled this year.

General Manager of the Telephone Company, Mr. Desmond Walker, last night confirmed that tentative agreement had been reached after two days of talks this week. He too declined to reveal details.

"I am not in a position to say anything at this time," he said.

Last night's ratification of the new Telco contract brings an end to a month-long ban on overtime imposed by unionised staff.

Management including Mr. Walker were forced to work the switchboards at the weekends during the ban to provide uninterrupted telephone service.

It was the third major agreement reached this year by key industries. Earlier in the Spring, garage and construction workers settled after going out on strike.

Construction workers settled for nine percent wage increases for each year of their two-year contract. There was also a 2.5 percent increase in benefits.

Garage workers settled for an eight percent wage increase in the first year, followed by a seven percent wage increase in the second of the two-year agreement. Benefits are to increase by one percent over two years.

The only other major negotiations still outstanding are those for 60-odd unionised staff at the Bermuda Broadcasting Company.

No progress has been reported in those talks, and it is believed that workers were last month demanding a 15.9 percent wage increase in the first year alone.

Employer Exceptions

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 4 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The reluctance of certain construction employers to sign the new agreement, arrived at April 4, 1984, between the Bermuda Industrial Union and the Construction Division of the Employers' Council, may create problems for the Union, the employers and the community as a whole.

The agreement covers standardized wages and fringe benefits for all UNIONISED workers in construction. However, there a number of construction workers who are members of the Union but whose employers will not sign the agreement.

This was explained to Workers Voice by BIU president, Brother Ottiwell Simmons.

He told us that currently Union members are protesting against the use of materials that are supplied by non-unionised firms. SAL is one such firm, which is being protested. So far, said Bro. Ottie, this firm has refused to sign the agreement.

He said that unionised workers are also protesting the fact that some construction contractors have not yet committed themselves to the signing of the agreement. Therefore, the unionised workers are planning to refuse to work for these firms and will protest labour supplied by these firms on sub-contracts, to be used on unionised jobs.

UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS

"The BIU, along with those employers who

are committed to signing the new agreement, have attempted to persuade the uncommitted employers to sign" said Bro. Ottie, "but, so far, these efforts have not elicited a sufficiently positive response."

He said that this reactionary attitude on the part of certain employers could cause "some unnecessary problems". Simply because, he said, these employers want to underpay their employees, while at the same time charging the customers the standard rate for labour. "In other words", he said, "they hope to increase their profits by exploiting the worker and the customer."

Bro. Ottie urged all workers who are not yet union members and who are working for non-unionised firms, to join the BIU, so that they may enjoy the full benefits negotiated in the collective agreement.

We learned that all union members who come under the new agreement have already received retroactive pay, back-dated to March 1, 1984. They will be getting an 18% increase over the two year period, plus improved pensions, vacations, paid sick leave and other benefits.

He said that it is expected that the new collective agreement will be signed next week and that contractors should check with the Employers' Council and the BIU for further details.

CSO: 3298/885

BRIEFS

SWAN ON U.S. TAX--Premier the Hon. John Swan said on Friday he was confident that the US Congress would not make tax changes which could affect business in Bermuda. Speaking at a meeting of Ameco Mutual shareholders at the Southampton Princess, which was attended by 140 delegates flown in from the US, Mr. Swan noted that it was still not clear whether Congress would increase the Federal Excise Tax or take other measures to force "off shore" corporations back "on-shore". "It is still not clear if these proposals will become law. However, I can assure you that the Bermuda Government has been active in making representations to those concerned that these Draconian measures will be counter productive. "I feel confident that we will be able to escape the pressures to reduce national deficits by placing unfair burdens on small and friendly countries such as Bermuda. I feel absolutely sure that an appeal for fair treatment for Bermuda will prevail." He described the members of the Bermuda insurance community as a club which had worked with Government to make sure Bermuda had maintained and increased its reputation. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 May 84 p 3]

RISE IN IMPORTS--Bermuda imported goods valued at more than \$377 million dollars last year--up 7.6 percent on 1982--according to the Customs' Imports and Exports annual report published at the weekend. The report provides a comprehensive account of the Island's trade in goods with the rest of the world during 1983. The United States was the biggest supplier accounting for 56 percent of the total imports followed by the Netherland Antilles (12%), the United Kingdom (8%), Canada (6%) and Japan (5%). The biggest imports, food, drink, and tobacco, were up by 7.25 percent, and grossed \$76.3 million. Other highlights in the report were: fuel up 6 percent (\$53.9 million), and finished manufactures up 7.25 percent (\$46.2 million). The total exports of goods--never a large item in Bermuda's external trade account, according to Government--rose by 31 percent in 1983, grossing \$22.7 million. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 May 84 p 9]

CSO: 3298/885

GUERREIRO, OTHERS OPINE ON DEBT MORATORIUM, RENEGOTIATION

No Moratorium Seen Necessary

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jun 84 p 29

[Text] Yesterday, after a 2-hour meeting at Planalto Palace with Ministers Delfim Netto and Ernane Galvea, Foreign Ministry Saraiva Guerreiro reiterated that Brazil is not considering declaring "even a partial" moratorium and that, in this connection, it will not be influenced by unilateral decisions of other countries who make such a decision. The foreign minister claimed that Brazil is not in such an extreme predicament, also stressing that he had never had any disagreements with the planning minister regarding the issue of Brazil's foreign debt.

At the meeting the main positions to be upheld by Brazil with the other debtor countries were debated. The government's position will consist of an expansion upon the communique issued 2 weeks ago. The foreign minister was of the opinion that the stance is rational and conscious, and should make an impression on the seven developed countries that will be meeting in London.

From the creditor countries, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said that he anticipates a positive reaction and a joint reflection on the problems that will be arriving over the medium and long term. According to the foreign minister, this does not mean that the debtor countries should not foster the readjustment of their economies, as in the case of Brazil, something that might occur regardless of the agreement with the IMF; and he noted that the developed countries and those still developing have their economies inexorably linked.

The foreign minister commented that other Latin American countries might take part in the meeting, and cited as a feature of mutual interest the reduction in interest rates, the opening of markets and the extension of the periods for payment.

The Letter

The heads of government of the seven richest nations in the world are receiving a letter today from the presidents of the Republic of Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia. The letter will be sent by the ambassadors of those

four Latin American countries to the capitals of the industrialized nations. Only one of them will be delivered personally: the one to Margaret Thatcher.

The letter calls attention to the terms of a document that will be annexed: the official note released on 19 May by Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Bogota and Mexico City, explaining the difficulties faced by the Latin American countries in paying their respective foreign debts. According to the Itamaraty spokesman, Minister Bernardo Pericás, the text of the letter may not be disclosed until tomorrow.

The meeting that the Latin American countries will hold to debate their foreign debt problems is to be postponed until the period from 20 to 22 June. Bogota was definitely excluded as the site for the meeting.

Banker Approves Renegotiation Strategy

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jun 84 p 30

[Text] The executive director for the international area of the Itau Bank, Sergio Silva de Freitas, considers the initiative that Brazil and other Latin American countries are carrying out to alert the creditors to the risks entailed by high interest rates to be of major importance. This move by the debtors is important, primarily because it could motivate the various social sectors of the creditor countries and enable Brazil, in the future, to obtain better terms for the payment of the debt.

Freitas remarked: "I am not an apologist for a unilateral solution to the foreign debt problems, mainly because I don't think that this would lead to an effective solution. But we need to assume a political attitude toward the debt." Only with an effort in that direction will it be possible to gain permanent mechanisms for dealing with the debt problem and combating the atmosphere of uncertainty on the international financial market.

According to the director of Itau, any solution for ending the uncertainties must involve the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), but does not depend on that entity alone. Other areas must be motivated, such as the Congress and the public; and, in that sense, the meeting of foreign ministers from Latin American countries could prove very significant.

What Has Changed

The Itau director claims that Itamaraty's entry into the strategy for negotiating the foreign debt should not cause any significant change in the criteria for negotiating that have already been adopted. Freitas commented: "We have been renegotiating for 2 years, and we are not paying anything. Telling the creditors that we cannot pay will be nothing new.

"I think that the renegotiation strategy adopted to date by Brazil is quite suitable and should not be changed. We must continue to expend efforts to adjust the economy, and this is the only thing that the creditors demand.

They are not going to require that we pay now, because they realize that we are not in a position to pay."

According to Freitas, Itamaraty's participation in the negotiations is very important from a political standpoint and will provide the country with better conditions for showing the creditors the degree of sacrifice that it is ready to make. He added: "In this respect, Itamaraty appears to be used mainly as an instrument for attack, to divert attention from the enemy."

'Wounds'

"Not to pay anything for 5 years." That should be Brazil's negotiating position (in the opinion of the vice-chairman of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries [FIESP], Paulo Francini) during the meeting of the four creditor countries in Bogota on 15 June. He claims that this position is the personal idea of the former president of the Central Bank, Paulo Lira, and that it is the most viable one for enabling the country to recover from the "wounds that it has been suffering from in recent years."

According to Paulo Francini, after the proposal has been stated, the country should discuss the interest and the payment of the principal per se. He maintained that, for the government to hold that position, it would have to be backed by full support from the society.

Penna: Exports Determine Repayment

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 May 84 p 24

[Text] Yesterday, in Sao Paulo, the minister of industry and commerce, Camilo Penna, claimed: "Brazil's foreign debt can be paid only with exports of goods and services. The creditor countries are concerned about collecting from us, but are not interested in purchasing."

He claimed that, to avoid a breakdown in relations, it is essential that, at the forthcoming meeting in London, the "seven greats" also be subjected to discipline, with greater austerity and more restrictions in the monetary budgets. According to the minister, those rules should be dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or any other similar international organization, so as not to create unsolvable conditions for the debtor countries.

Exports of manufactures are showing a good performance; however, the funds accrued are insufficient to pay even the service on the Brazilian foreign debt. The minister of industry and commerce gave a reminder that, "The therapy is recessive, and could work for awhile, maybe 1 or 2 years. The inflationary process is being transferred from the internal to the external sector."

Camilo Penna declared that Brazil needs to export larger numbers of ready-made clothing, footwear and aircraft, which have a greater value added. As for the contingencies imposed on Brazilian steel with respect to the United States

market, he said: "We are attempting to gain time in the search for a precarious balance until the elections take place in the U.S."

Interest

According to the vice president of BANESPA [Sao Paulo State Bank], Gilberto Dupas, the capitalization of part or even all of the interest, as has been suggested in some proposals for renegotiating the foreign debt, will not solve the problems of Brazil's accounts. Based on his calculations and projections, that measure would represent only the postponement of the problems, which would return more seriously in the future.

He claims that the only solution is the negotiation (if necessary, the imposition) of a 5-year no-insurance period and the establishment of a fixed interest rate of about 6 percent per year, leaving to the bankers the responsibility for administering "their losses or decline in profitability." With those measures, if one accepts that Brazil's exports increase at the rate of 11 percent per year and imports increase 3 percent, the foreign debt would be cut to \$80 billion by 1989. Accepting the fact that the rates remain in the 12.6 percent bracket and that exports and imports progress in accordance with the foregoing hypothesis, the mere capitalization of the interest would raise the foreign debt to a bracket of \$120 billion, worsening the burden of its service.

Joint Note

Yesterday, at the War College in Rio, the head of the Brazilian Association of Commercial Banks, Celio Borja, commented: "The United States, which has worldwide responsibilities, cannot raise interest rates without considering the effects thereof on the international economy." He supported the note from the governments of Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Colombia against the present international financial system.

However, the former head of the Chamber stressed that a unilateral position would not bring about positive effects even if it were adopted in a bloc. "Every time this position has been assumed, the result has been increased poverty."

The renegotiation of the foreign debt with the international financial system is regarded as essential by the members of the Superior Economic Council of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries. "In fact, the creditors don't have much choice," commented the chairman of the entity, Luis Eulalio de Bueno Vidigal Filho.

The council's proposal is not to make the real transfer of income, but only the difference between the net balance in the trade balance and the services (royalties, for example), excluding the debt service; and what is left over from that balance should be capitalized and paid within 5 years. That method, applied to this year, would transfer \$7 billion instead of \$11 billion, as in the current estimate; and, as Vidigal remarks: "The country would not be sending its domestic revenue abroad."

He gives a reminder that there is already acceptance on the part of the international financial community of the needs for the debtors to pay the interest, adding that the European banks are already counting Brazil as being hurt, "which reinforces tremendously the advantage of those upholding renegotiation."

This position is associated with yet another issue debated by the council yesterday: the partial release from control of imports proposed by the government. According to Vidigal, it is "absolutely risky, not only for industry but also for the trade balance, to waste all the effort expended during the past 3 years to substitute for imports."

In addition, there was a another discussion of the question of reactivating the economy. On this point, the council again concluded that the increase in industrial production which occurred this year was due almost exclusively to exports; because commerce and agriculture did not have the same performance. Vidigal admits, however, that indirect effects of the growth could occur on the domestic market slowly.

Inflation

The chairman of FIESP acknowledges the fact that industry has had a greater effect this month on the 8.9 percent inflation. He recalls that industry had little influence on the inflation index during the past 12 months, while its average prices rose 170 percent, in comparison with 235 percent inflation. In May, however, he admits that the effect increased to 12 percent, as opposed to 7 percent during the previous months. In his opinion, the reasons for this greater effect are: the 30 percent rise in the price of steel plate during April, the disagreements among the metal workers and the rise in the minimum wage.

2909

CSO: 3342/112

ARMS SALES MANUFACTURERS, COSTS, MARKETS REPORTED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Jun 84 p 13

[Text] Sao Paulo--Most of the exports of the Brazilian weapons industry are made for cash, with immediate receipt in dollars. Sales on installments occur only when the purchaser becomes traditional, as in the case of Iraq, which is continuing to purchase light armored vehicles on wheels from ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc], and which recently closed a contract for the purchase of six Astrosunits, multiple rocket launchers manufactured by Avibras.

The Brazilian weaponry products are well priced on the international market, and this year exports of them should amount to about \$800 million. But there are definite orders, with deliveries planned for the next few years, totaling \$2 billion. The prices of the Brazilian weaponry products vary from \$4,000 to \$6,000 (for each bomb or rocket unit), going as high as \$20 million (for an Astrosunit, with options). According to the heads of the sector themselves, the national weapons company has procured an industrial production scale on the basis of foreign sales.

The weapons industry is solving its major problem: the development of new types of technology at its research centers, from which will emerge, in the near future, new products for the national Armed Forces and for export. Its research centers spend over \$150 million per year. The development and production of the first prototype of the Osorio (ENGESA's heavy tank on tracks) alone, for example, is costing \$50 million.

The new Brazilian missile, the Piranha, should be on the market next year. It is the result of technology developed at the Aerospace Technical Center and has been negotiated with D.F. Vasconcelos for industrial production.

Sales of Brazilian weapons now reach 50 countries of South America, Africa and the Middle East. ENGESA has negotiated with nearly all the South American countries with the exception of Argentina, with African countries and, in particular, with those of the Middle East. Negotiations are also under way with China.

EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] is increasing its participation in the EMBRAER Aircraft Corporation, with headquarters in the United States,

which is responsible for most of the company's exports. To date, EMBRAER has had nine patrol Bandeirantes in Chile, nine Xavantes in Paraguay, 11 Xavantes in Argentina, five Bandeirantes for civilian and military transport in Uruguay and eight Tucanos for military training in Honduras.

Avibras has been exporting to the Middle East for over 5 years, also selling to South American countries. D.F. Vasconcelos exports bombs and rockets, primarily to South America and the Middle East. The prices of the weaponry products are:

EMBRAER:

Tucano - a military training and guerrilla combat plane: \$1.2 million. EMBRAER sells the aircraft without equipment. The Tucano can carry 1,500 kilograms of weapons, representing an additional cost of over \$150,000 to the purchaser.

Xingu - a military training plane for executive use as well: \$2.25 million. France purchased 40 units of this aircraft for military training.

AMX - a military combat jet which will be on the market starting in 1987. Current price: \$10.5 million.

Bandeirante - for military transport: \$1.85 million.

Patrol Bandeirante - \$3.8 million. Its special radar alone costs \$700,000.

ENGESA:

Light armored vehicles - Urutu, Cascavel and Jararaca, priced from \$450,000 to \$700,000, depending on the options that the purchaser wants to install in the vehicle, such as visor for night vision, laser equipment, telemeter (distance gage) and the various types of weapons, ranging from machine guns to cannons.

Avibras:

Astros - multiple rocket launcher, with computerized firing guide. Costs \$10 million. Its price could double with the options.

Rockets and bombs - manufactured by Avibras and D.F. Vasconcelos. Each unit costs from \$4,000 to \$5,000. The sales are made in lots, based upon the client's interest.

Bernardini:

Tamoio - medium tank on tracks, costing from \$650,000 to \$800,000, depending on the options.

2909

CSO: 3342/112

NAVAL WAR TRAINING MANEUVERS OFF SOUTHERN COAST DESCRIBED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 84 p 5

[Text] "Enemy forces are attempting to install a nuclear missile base on a Brazilian island." This was the general alert marking the final phase of the naval maneuvers held during the past 2 weeks by the Navy in the southern section of the country. Operation Temperex consisted of intensive training to prepare the fleets for a possible real war, including a squadron made up of 11 ships, two submarines and the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais." A total of 4,400 men were mobilized.

Based on this alert, a veritable war operation was mounted, in which only the firing was simulated. The enemy force, the "White," had departed from Parana-gua, carrying a group of strategic components, and the function of the other force, called the "Black," was to intercept and destroy the carrier vessel, if possible, to destroy the base, as well as everything standing in the way of the mission's success.

The maneuvers of this "electronic war" were closely monitored by the commander in chief of the squadron, Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira, the judge for the exercises. In the end, he explained, "It doesn't matter who wins the battle. The important thing is the observations made, and the failures and successes noted."

Electronics

During the entire operation, the greatest of care was taken with the electronic equipment, because it is through the pickup of those signals that an aircraft, a submarine or even an enemy warship can be detected. As Vice-Adm Luis Leal Ferreira explains, a failure during that phase could prove fatal, and there is a great concern for training the crews in the handling of this sophisticated electronic apparatus:

"Electronics has reached such a high degree of sophistication that it demands that we seamen be virtually electronic technicians, because the importance and value of the equipment on a warship are so great. We may not have all the equipment that we would like to have, but we are in a position to adapt to the most sophisticated equipment within a very short period of time."

However, the maneuvers were not limited merely to the use of electronic equipment. A war operation was mounted, with drills to detect aircraft and submarines, and the transfer of light cargo from one ship to another, with a view toward preparations for the "big war" that was to be waged on the way back. The fleet was divided into the "Black" and "White," two adversaries with well-defined targets.

The Maneuvers

The "White" squadron left Paranagua with three destroyers and one frigate, protecting a carrier vessel which was supposed to be bringing strategic material for the construction of an atomic missile base on a fictitious island indicated only on the officers' maps. The mission of the "Black" was to prevent the shipment from reaching the site. For this purpose, it would have to destroy the carrier ship and, if possible, the base itself. Furthermore, to carry out the mission, the "Black" squadron had permission to destroy any obstacle that might prove disruptive. That fleet was considerably larger. In addition to the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais," it had two frigates, three destroyers, a submarine and an office ship.

Obviously, nothing was destroyed in that operation. What occurred was the detection and simulation of firing. And who won the war? Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira explains:

"The operations are being closely monitored, and the commander in chief is the judge. Hence, it is he who determines the winner. However, it is of no concern to us who will win the battle. We are more concerned about observing the action of the two forces, and whether it was in keeping with the pre-established procedures."

Surprises can occur in such operations, such as that involving the submarine which emerged beside the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais," during a recent drill, just to detect it. In a war, this could have been fatal, because air-ports are always the main target.

The vice admiral explains: "When this happens, we learn several lessons, and the main one is that we need to train our personnel more. Sometimes a submarine even penetrates our formation, because we lack the ability to detect it; or there is failure on the part of personnel or equipment, or even a cleverness on the part of the submarine commander. In the latter instance, it is to his credit."

The sighting of submarines is a constant concern, owing to the potential threat that they represent. For this purpose, the ships have sophisticated electronic equipment which even detects conversations and other noise aboard. But there is the opposite as well: the submarines are also well equipped, and this increases the importance of the detection and the care not to emit electronic signals that would facilitate identification.

With the discoveries of oil on the ocean platform, there has been an increase in the responsibility of the Navy, which already had protection from Brazil's immense coast. Hence, there has been specific training to protect the oil wells in the event of war.

Acknowledging the fact that the oil-bearing platforms are "an immense resource, particularly during a war," Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira reports that this defense has been assigned to the commanders of the naval districts, but that the squadron cooperates in the exercises that are held. He claims that the platform defense technique is still controversial among the leading navies of the world:

"We are attempting to create our own techniques and procedures for protecting our platform, but this depends greatly on the type of threat against it. In the event that techniques are adopted using frogmen or subversive methods, the patrolling would have to be done by a local surveillance group, using smaller ships; now if it were an attack by submarine, we would have to have an antisubmarine patrol in the region. Therefore, it depends on the kind of threat, and people will sense that only if there is action taken against them. Then they would discern the best way of defending the platform."

This increase in responsibility should also entail further investments to equip the Navy. "It is our intention to have it expanded considerably, based upon our requirements and the length of our coast," explains Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira, who goes on to say:

"However, we realize that this is a time for restraint and limitations. The country is experiencing a difficult phase which is, fortunately, temporary; 3 or 4 years hence, we expect it to be at a normal pace. At the moment, the Navy is suffering from those consequences, and we realize that we have to suffer those consequences."

Even with these problems, two modern corvettes are being built, as well as a school ship and a hospital ship, for the Amazon region. An agreement was recently signed with Germany for the construction of two submarines, one in Brazil and the other in that country, simultaneously. In the opinion of Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira, this is very important, because "There can no longer be respectable Armed Forces which are dependent on foreign countries." And he continues:

"Today, any country must build most of its weaponry equipment, because when the time comes that we need it, we cannot remain dependent on supplies from abroad. So, naval construction fits into this context, and our own technology is essential to our being considered Armed Forces deserving of that name."

2909

CSO: 3342/112

CHIEF MINISTER HAILS ISLANDS' MEMBERSHIP IN ECLA

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 28 Apr 84 pp 12, 14

[Address delivered by the Honorable Chief Minister Cyril B. Romney on the occasion of the British Virgin Islands to associate membership in the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America; date and place not specified]

[Text]

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen-

It is an honour for me to address you on the occasion of the accession of the British Virgin Islands to Associate Membership in the prestigious body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America. The BVI presence here today is indicative of our recognition of the importance of regional co-operation for our individual growth, through the pursuit of functional mechanisms for common services, co-operation and some degree of regional integration. At the outset, I would ask you to bear in mind that, aside from the fact that the territory of the British Virgin Islands falls within the geographic scope of the Commission, our goals and aspirations are not unlike those of the majority of Member countries. These are, Mr. Chairman:-

(a) to improve the quality of life for all our citizens through the pursuit of full employment objectives;

(b) to control the development and exploitation of our natural resources for the benefit of the indigenous population;

(c) to provide opportunities for native investment through the encouragement of individual effort and joint ventures between local and foreign investors;

(d) to maintain a stable, peaceful and harmonious society wherein all of the above may be safely and quietly achieved.

In recognition of the importance placed on economic co-operation for development, the British Virgin Islands has made several overtures, largely on our initiative, with a view to entering both regional and international organisations. Last November a request was made through the British Government for Associate Membership in UNESCO. This request, I am happy to say, was successful and my Ministry is currently examining ways and means to make the new relationship an effective one. Closer to home, we

have just been informed that the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States has approved our request for Associate Membership which would entitle us to full participation in the Economic Affairs Committee and to meetings of the Authority of that Body as appropriate. Last February for the first time in the seven years of the existence of the Washington based Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development, a special meeting was convened for the BVI to discuss its country memorandum and development project list with development aid donors. Mr. Chairman, these are just some of our major efforts aimed at stimulating greater involvement in the wider political economy of the region. At this point I must acknowledge with great appreciation, the guidance and assistance in these endeavours received from the UNDP and other agencies both on a formal and an informal basis. I must also express my appreciation to

the Government of the United Kingdom for facilitating the placement of our request on the Agenda of this session of ECLA.

I note that the agenda provides for consideration of the implementation of an international development strategy and I am aware that much discussion has taken place on this vital subject. Nevertheless, I call on fellow delegates, Mr. Chairman, to pay special attention to the unique problems of micro states such as the British Virgin Islands. I am aware of the tendency to consider all Caribbean territories as small, but smallness assumes a new dimension when considered in reference to a territory such as mine, with 12,000 people scattered among 40 islands and cays that together aggregate 59 square miles of land spread over 1000 square miles of ocean, existing within hailing distance of an affluent US territory and visited by some 200,000 predominantly US tourists a year. Such a milieu surely calls for unusual strategies to achieve a balanced economy in which the benefits of dollars spent accrue in fair proportions to the nationals as well as the investors who serve this particularly demanding clientele. Naturally, several spurious indications are in evidence in an economy such as that of the British Virgin Islands, the most bothersome being a relatively high per capita

income estimated to be in excess of \$4000. This figure, while admirable on the one hand, tends, on the other, to obscure factors such as comparatively low levels of education and limited health facilities which are obviously in need of urgent attention. These are matters which I hope that a forum such as ECLA will address in deliberations relating to planning and economic development.

And now to turn briefly to another subject, I feel that the simultaneous tabling of the applications by the BVI and USVI for Associate Membership in ECLA is more than mere co-incidence. I do not wish to pre-empt my fellow Virgin Islander, but I feel compelled, nevertheless, to make mention of the long standing relationship that has for many generations existed between the two territories. Indeed we both agree that the difference between both sets of Virgins is to a large extent superficial, in that about 50% of the native population of the USVI is of BVI extraction. Furthermore, during the inter-war and many of the post-war years, the economy of the BVI depended on the USVI for its very survival and while I am happy to say that the BVI, through thrift and increased external assistance has moved to a great degree of self-sufficiency, I nevertheless recognise the existence of a symbiotic relationship which has

developed between the two territories, especially in the yachting industry, which, incidentally, comprises some 60% of tourism activity in the BVI. A large number of British Virgin Islanders also continue to live and work in the USVI, all facilitated annually by very generous quotas for permanent residence in the US. What I said about the relationship between the BVI and the USVI is also applicable, albeit to a lesser degree, to other Caribbean territories. All in all, therefore, I feel that it is just and proper that the USVI become a meaningful part of those important regional organisations that reflect these relationships, and that membership in the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America would be a fitting way to begin.

Mr. Chairman, in assuming Associate Membership, the BVI pledges its full support to ECLA and will always conduct itself in a manner reflective of this solemn pledge. As Chief Minister of the Territory of the British Virgin Islands, I wish to record my sincere thanks to sponsoring and supporting Members, and I look forward to playing a significant role among this esteemed family of nations.

May I also thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the entire ECLA staff for the part played and the valuable assistance given in this matter.

COMMUNISTS ATTACK POLITICAL PARTIES STATUTE PROPOSAL

PY022351 Moscow Radio Magallanes in Spanish to Chile 0200 GMT 2 Jun 84

[Commentary by Orlando Millas, member of the Chilean Communist Party Committee for Political Affairs]

[Excerpts] We communists believe that the main problem posed by Pinochet's draft bill regarding the statutes of political parties lies in the fact that it is based on the 1980 constitution, which is illegal, fascist and invalid. This constitution does away with the peoples' sovereignty and centers true supreme power in a so-called National Security Council. The fact that a political party is recognized and allowed to operate, in keeping with the so-called constitution, depends on the aforementioned council and other equally illegal bodies. Therefore, this in turn results in so-called political parties which are subject to the fascist regime and which accept being integrated parties within a fascist regime.

The first thing that must be done in Chile for a political party to be legally recognized is to reestablish the people's sovereignty, that is, to do away with all the articles and clauses of the anti-democratic and illegal 1980 constitution.

Pinochet continues to establish silly requirements such as the need to have 150,000 signatures, but this is not important. In the first place, it must be pointed out that those political parties that may be recognized by the aforementioned statutes, provided for by the 1980 constitution, will not have the true rights of a political party and will be liable to be eliminated by the strike of a pen of a fascist authority illegally elected by the so-called constitution.

Chile used to have a democratic law on political parties. The Chilean Communist Party believes that this law should be fully reestablished since it expediently solves the problem of the integration of political parties in the country's legal structure and recognizes their democratic rights.

The Communist Party proposes that, without more complications and in a simple and clear ceremony, the law that was in force until 11 September 1973 be reestablished, as well as the organizations provided for by the aforementioned law--the list of political parties with legal statutes that existed until that date. As a consequence, it proposes procedures for the aforementioned parties to up-date their leaderships and for others that may be newly established to

request their registration. This is all we request since nothing else is necessary for the time being. This is the first step that must be taken. The law for the reestablishment of political parties' rights should not run into any problems when Pinochet falls. In sum, what is really sought is to simply eliminate the illegal activities carried out by the military junta and Pinochet which have tried to degrade the political parties, to make them illegal, and to question, or prosecute them.

During the more than 10 years of his dictatorship, Pinochet has made charges against what he calls gentlemen politicians and with that primitive and fascist demagoguery justifies the idea of a statute for political parties.

But Pinochet alone has unmasked himself by enacting his recent law which prohibits the media from reporting on true events that may affect the peoples' morale with the excuse of safeguarding the private dignity of shameless citizens such as himself.

A democratic regime and a supervision system should exist in order to combat political corruption. But it is silly to start off by placing obstacles before the free and sovereign organization of the citizenry in political parties. We communists are against subjecting the political parties to norms that will limit them in an anti-democratic manner or that support the actions carried out against them by the repressive forces.

CSO: 3348/446

POLL SHOWS BETANCUR'S POPULARITY DECLINING

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 22 May 84 pp 32-35

[Article by Roberto Pombo: "Good, 33.3 Percent; Fair, 46.5 Percent; Poor, 7.7 Percent"]

[Text] Between October 1982 and May 1984, the president's image has faded. On that first date, 83 percent of the Colombians had a favorable impression of Betancur while, by the second date, only 67 percent remained on his side.

The unprecedented popularity that Belisario Betancur reached began when, as president elect, he was always on the go in his Renault 4. He got out to eat potatoes at some stand or be the starter at a classic local bicycle race. The Colombians were used to seeing only seriousness, distance, security measures and absolutely no sense of humor in their rulers. They were pleasantly surprised when they saw that the new president was a real person unlike some of his predecessors.

Betancur's term aroused such expectations that he was already the most popular person in the country before taking office when his government consisted only of his campaign promises.

Houses without a down payment, Colombia's affiliation with the nonaligned countries and the search for peace in Colombia and in Central America supported that popularity. For the first time in many, many years, a president dared present a stand of relative independence from the United States.

First Survey

In October 1982, 2 months after his administration began, more than half the Colombians thought the country "was on the wrong track." A poll taken at that time by the Invamer firm revealed that fact. It also indicated that 83 percent of the people had a favorable impression of President Betancur, 25 percent felt the government would be very good and 58 percent maintained that it would be good. At that time, more than 80 percent of those surveyed revealed they were ready to support the new government of B. B. and 92 percent agreed with an amnesty for the guerrillas, one of the aces the president had up his sleeve.

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28 June 1984

Latin America Report

FBIS

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28 June 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

BARBADOS

- Oil Tests at Canefield Show Promise, Says Griffith
(THE NATION, 30 Apr 84) 1

JAMAICA

- Electricity Rates Increased 54 Percent Effective 1 May
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 19 May 84) 2
- Manufacturers Urge Formation of Utilities Commission
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 24 May 84) 5

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Oil Companies Suffering From Reductions in Trade
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Apr 84) 7
- Amoco Threatens Cuts Unless It Gets Tax Concessions
(EXPRESS, 14 May 84) 8

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- CDB President Demas Discusses Results of Annual Meeting
(Balford Henry; THE DAILY GLEANER, 19 May 84) 9
- Trinidad Manufacturers Rap Jamaica, Urge Bilateralism
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 1 May 84) 12
- Rickey Singh Denies 'Spy' Charges by Barbados' Adams
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 17 May 84) 17
- Colombia Scores Preferential Treatment for Ecuador
(Jose Suarez; EL TIEMPO, 18 May 84) 18

| | |
|--|----|
| St Lucia Hails Trinidad Action on Import Licenses (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 25 May 84) | 22 |
| Trinidad-Tobago, Barbados Agree on Joint Air Service (George Harvey; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 24 May 84) | 23 |
| Briefs | |
| CDB Actions | 24 |
| BAHAMAS | |
| Another PLP Official Quits Party To Join Opposition FNM (Athena Damianos; THE TRIBUNE, 11 May 84) | 25 |
| Government Seeks \$30-Million Loan for Capital Development (Marcia Bethell; THE TRIBUNE, 24 May 84) | 27 |
| Pindling at Youth Rally Discounts Early Election (Anthony Forbes; THE TRIBUNE, 17 May 84) | 28 |
| \$45-Million Housing Program Introduced by Government (Athena Damianos; THE TRIBUNE, 25 May 84) | 30 |
| Six Policemen Charged With Variety of Crimes (THE TRIBUNE, 25 May 84) | 31 |
| Unions, FNM at Odds With Government Labor Policies (THE TRIBUNE, various dates) | 32 |
| Isaacs on Unemployment, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Criticism of Maynard, by Athena Damianos | |
| TUC Opposition to Tax, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Archer Call for Unity, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Hotel Workers' Threat, by Anthony Forbes | |
| Government Delays OK on FNM Meeting Request (THE TRIBUNE, 18 May 84) | 40 |
| Pindling Accuses FNM; Opposition Responds in Release (THE TRIBUNE, 7, 8 May 84) | 41 |
| Charge of 'Sabotage' | |
| FNM Rejoinder | |
| Briefs | |
| Crime Watch Groups | 44 |
| BARBADOS | |
| Negative Trade Balance as Exports to Trinidad Fall (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 7 May 84) | 45 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Wage Issues, Union-Government Contention Continue to Smolder (Various sources, various dates) | 47 |
| Government Pay Bill | |
| Adams on Union Demands | |
| BWU Resolutions, by Frank L. Wolcott | |
| Unemployment Figures | |
| Walcott May Day Address | |
| BWU Offer To Talk | |
| Criticism of Government Priorities | |
| Crime, Arson Worry Police; Public Asked to Help (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 6 May 84) | 53 |
| Briefs | |
| Envoy to UK | 55 |
| Teacher Salaries | 55 |
| Cotton Success | 55 |
| Chicken Prices | 56 |
| BERMUDA | |
| Pembroke West By-Election Won by UBP Candidate (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, various dates) | 57 |
| Broadcasting Violation Charge | |
| UBP Candidate on Hong Kong | |
| PLP Man on Parish Councils | |
| Poll Results | |
| PLP Draft Legislation Offers Election Law Changes (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 26 May 84) | 60 |
| Senate Warned on Impact of Crime on Tourism (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 31 May 84) | 62 |
| U.S. Missile Landing Sparks Questions, PLP Protest (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, various dates) | 63 |
| Issue of Advance Notification | |
| PLP 'Shock' | |
| Demand for 'Advance Permission' | |
| PLP Proposals | |
| Swan Accused of Accruing Power, Dismantling Government (Editorial; THE WORKERS VOICE, 20 Apr 84) | 66 |
| Labor Disputes Settled, But Some Contractors Balk (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 3 May 84; THE WORKERS VOICE, 4 May 84) | 68 |
| Telco-BIU Pact | |
| Employer Exceptions | |

| | |
|--|----|
| Briefs | |
| Swan on U.S. Tax | 70 |
| Rise in Imports | 70 |
| BRAZIL | |
| Guerreiro, Others Opine on Debt Moratorium, Renegotiation (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 5 Jun, 31 May 84) | 71 |
| No Moratorium Seen Necessary | |
| Banker Approves Renegotiation Strategy | |
| Penna: Exports Determine Repayment | |
| Arms Sales Manufacturers, Costs, Markets Reported (JORNAL DO BRASIL, 2 Jun 84) | 76 |
| Naval War Training Maneuvers Off Southern Coast Described (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 3 Jun 84) | 78 |
| BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS | |
| Chief Minister Hails Islands' Membership in ECLA (Cyril B. Romney; THE ISLAND SUN, 28 Apr 84) | 81 |
| CHILE | |
| Communists Attack Political Parties Statute Proposal (Orlando Millas; Moscow Radio Magallanes in Spanish to Chile, 2 Jun 84) | 83 |
| COLOMBIA | |
| Poll Shows Betancur's Popularity Declining (Roberto Pombo; CROMOS, 22 May 84) | 85 |
| DOMINICA | |
| Report on May Day Celebrations; Police Stop NWU (THE NEW CHRONICLE, 4 May 84) | 90 |
| Prime Minister Charles Denies Seeking IMF Assistance (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 May 84) | 91 |
| Briefs | |
| Trade With Jamaica | 92 |
| Increase in Exports | 92 |
| FRENCH GUIANA | |
| Prefect Silberzahn Assesses Issues, Problems, Development (Silberzahn; LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 3 Feb 84) | 93 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Georges Lemoine Answers Questions on Decentralization (Georges Lemoine Interview; LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 13 Mar 84) | 97 |
| Complaints Against U.S., Japanese Shrimp Trawlers (LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 13, 24 Feb 84) | 102 |
| Castor Calls for Licensing Fees, by Elie Castor DOM Secretary Cites Economic Advantages, by Elie Castor | |
| Proposals for Education of Hinterland Population (LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 10, 11 Feb 84) | 106 |
| Immigrant Housing Proposals Reported (LA PRESSE DE GUYANE, 25 Apr 84) | 112 |
| GRENADA | |
| Ex-PRG Members Accused of Sabotaging Infrastructure (Christabel King; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 24 Apr 84) | 115 |
| Trial of Austin, Others Postponed; Austin Hits 'Invaders' (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Apr 84) | 117 |
| Government Looks to Private Sector To Create New Jobs (EXPRESS, 30 Apr 84) | 118 |
| Briefs Loss of Libyan Aid | 119 |
| GUYANA | |
| Outgoing Venezuelan Envoy Urges Peaceful Resolution (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 10 May 84) | 120 |
| Two Brazilian Naval Vessels Schedule 5-Day Visit (SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 29 Apr 84) | 122 |
| Trawler Attacked; Some Crewmen Feared Dead (GUYANA CHRONICLE, various dates) | 124 |
| Hijacking at Sea Defense Force Escorts, by Bert Wilkinson Request for Weapons | |
| Solidarity, Peace Committee Makes Plans for Next Year (NEW NATION, 29 Apr 84) | 128 |
| Burnham, in May Day Speech, Outlines Economic Plans (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 2 May 84) | 129 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| TUC Officials Stress Rebuilding at May Day Rally (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 2 May 84) | 131 |
| Union Rallies Hit TUC Actions, Call for Wage Increases (MIRROR, 6 May 84; CATHOLIC STANDARD, 6 May 84) | 137 |
| Jagan at GAWU Rally | |
| GAWU Resolutions | |
| Other Rallies | |
| Union's Call for Recognition | |
| Denunciation of TUC Rallies | |
| Working People's Alliance Debates Future Policy (CATHOLIC STANDARD, 6 May 84) | 138 |
| PPP Organ Says Cooperative Sector Is 'In Decline' (MIRROR, 6 May 84) | 139 |
| Militia Leader Warns Against Subversion, Sabotage (NEW NATION, 29 Apr 84) | 140 |
| PPP Joins PNC on Bill Cracking Down on Smugglers (Leon Walcott; GUYANA CHRONICLE, 4 May 84) | 141 |
| Counter-Trade Arrangements Said Necessary for Growth (NEW NATION, 6 May 84) | 143 |
| Tennassee, in Barbados, Mourns Local Labor Movement (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 9 May 84) | 144 |
| Briefs | |
| GDF Acting Chief | 145 |
| Cuban Credit | 145 |
| Attack on Union Advisers | 145 |
| New Trade Partners | 146 |

JAMAICA

| | |
|--|-----|
| Seaga Introduces 1984-85 Budget; PNP Raises Objections (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates) | 147 |
| Report on Budget Speech | |
| Ministry Papers | |
| PNP Response | |
| Budget-IMF Linkage | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Government Introduces Food Program; Agricultural Gains Seen (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates) | 153 |
| Outline of Plan | |
| Appointment of Director | |
| Savings, Employment Benefits | |
| Seaga Amplification | |
| PSOJ Boost for Agriculture | |
| Sugar Prices | |
| Kingston Violence Continues To Have Wide Spillover (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates) | 159 |
| PNP Reply to Seaga | |
| Manley Call for Commission | |
| Security Spending Increase | |
| Private Sector Role | |
| Economic, Social Survey Shows Growth Rate of 1.8 Percent (THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 May 84) | 163 |
| Seaga Announces Plan To Establish New Factories (THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 May 84) | 165 |
| Government Approves Divestment of Banana Projects (THE DAILY GLEANER, 1 Jun 84) | 166 |
| Sugar Factories Will Convert To Private Operation (THE DAILY GLEANER, 1 Jun 84) | 167 |
| Banana Association Discusses Plans for Expansion (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 May 84) | 168 |
| Seaga Rules Out Early Election, Will Serve 5-Year Term (THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 May 84) | 169 |
| Text of Ministry Paper on Nation's Foreign Policy (THE DAILY GLEANER, 31 May 84) | 170 |
| Briefs | |
| JLP-PNP Talks | 173 |

MEXICO

| | |
|--|-----|
| PRI Electoral District Assemblies Take Up Reform Issues (EL NORTE, 21 May 84) | 174 |
| Church Study: 'Worrisome' Number of Nicaraguan Immigrants (EXCELSIOR, 13 May 84) | 176 |
| COMAR Report: Ethnic Breakdown of Guatemalan Refugees (Rogelio Hernandez; EXCELSIOR, 20 May 84) | 178 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| NAFINSA Official: Capital Goods Industry in Need of Credits (Francisco Duran; EL NORTE, 19 May 84) | 179 |
| Briefs | |
| Contract for Xerox Circuits | 181 |
| CANACINTRA: Jalisco Industrial Inactivity | 181 |
| ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS | |
| Opposition Leader Moore Eyes Election Prospects (Lee Moore Interview; SUNDAY SUN, 6 May 84) | 182 |
| ST LUCIA | |
| Briefs | |
| CDB Loan | 186 |
| ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES | |
| MNU's Gonsalves Blasts 'Adams Doctrine,' Views Politics (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 1 May 84) | 187 |
| Role of U.S.-Armed Police Force Called Into Question (THE VINCENTIAN, 4, 20 May 84) | 190 |
| Skepticism Over M16's, Editorial Threat of 'Trigger-Happy', by Ken John Need for Different Assistance, by Nora Peacocke | |
| Cato Addresses SLP Convention, Scores Inequality, Poverty (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 8 May 84; THE DAILY GLEANER, 10 May 84) | 196 |
| Call for Antipoverty Measures Resolution on Local Government | |
| Briefs | |
| UPM Attack on Isaacs | 198 |
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | |
| Special Committee Evaluates PNM; Mahabir Praised (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 31 May, 4 Jun 84) | 199 |
| Recommendations for Change, by Clevon Raphael General Council's Report | |
| Developments on Labor Front, Union Activities Reported (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates) | 203 |
| CPTU-Labour Congress Rift Labour Congress on Unity Industrial Relations Changes Protest of Ministry Cutbacks | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Bobb Replaces Bruce as Governor of Central Bank (Francis Joseph; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 2 Jun 84) | 206 |
| Texaco-Union Discord Persists; Protestors Turn Violent (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates) | 208 |
| Disagreement on Arbitration, by Suzanne Morris | |
| Attack on Mahabir's Home | |
| 'Anarchy' Warning | |
| Texaco Personnel Plans, by Mikey Mahabir | |
| OWTU 'No' to Texaco Offer, by Suzanne Morris | |
| Government Official Hits West's Short-Term 'Palliatives' on Debts (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 May 84) | 215 |
| Briefs | |
| Telco, Textel Funding | 217 |
| Telco Loans | 217 |
| Sugar Shortfall | 217 |
| Proposal for 'National Party' | 218 |
| NJAC Commemoration | 218 |

OIL TESTS AT CANEFIELD SHOW PROMISE, SAYS GRIFFITH

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 30 Apr 84 p 24

[Text]

TESTS are now being carried out on the oil well drilled at Canefield, St. Thomas, last month to determine whether it has commercial quantities of oil.

According to Minister of State, Senator Clyde Griffith, three wells have been drilled by the Canadian company, Bow Valley Services Limited, since it started a new oil exploration programme in Barbados last month.

The first well, said the minister, was drilled at Canefield and a service rig has been moved on to this site to determine whether there are any commercial deposits there.

He said: "There appears to be some signs of hydro-carbons at Canefield, but until those final tests are done we will not be able

to say if it would be viable to go further."

Other wells have since been drilled at Lower Parks and Bissex Hill in St. Joseph and a fourth is now being drilled at Gregg Farm, St. Andrew.

Senator Griffith said that it cost \$400 000 to drill each of the wells, with additional costs depending on what other work was done.

Looking at the proposed off-shore exploration programme, the energy minister said that the British company, Cluff Oil, was now formulating a work programme.

He said that the company had a licence to do exploratory work off Barbados for three years. It has been given a date next year by which its seismic work must be completed. The first well must be drilled by a specific date in 1986.

CSO: 3298/850

ELECTRICITY RATES INCREASED 54 PERCENT EFFECTIVE 1 MAY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Electricity rates have been increased by 54 percent effective May 1, 1984, the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon Pearnel Charles, announced yesterday.

The Minister said he regretted that this had to be done, but there was no alternative.

Mr Charles said that 39 percent of the new increase was to be passed on directly to the oil company while 15 percent would go towards the cost of debt-servicing, spare parts, costs by contractors and ancillary costs as a result of the devaluation.

"Let me make it very clear that none of this increase is designed to add to the company's revenue," he said.

The Minister released the following statement to the Press:

"The Jamaica Public Service Company has made great strides in the past four years. Neglected maintenance has been overcome at great cost, resulting in considerably improved efficiency of operations.

"However, due to the increased cost of crude oil and the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, the subsidy to customers of the JPS has now been eroded. Accordingly, the JPS will now have to bear the full cost of its fuel resulting in an increase of 39 percent in its fuel charges to its customers.

"Effect of the devaluation on the company's other foreign-exchange costs will result in an additional increase of 15 percent in the energy portion of its bill to customers. This means that there is a total increase of 54 percent on the customers' bill.

"The projections for 1984 did not envisage vast changes in currency rates, materially affecting primary and secondary costs of operations. This year the company expected to gain its third consecutive year of adhering to targets without a rate increase.

"However, a series of fiscal events affecting the country and the company occurred towards the end of 1983. First was the movement of fuel payments by the company from a rate of exchange of \$1.78 to \$3.15. Secondly, the rate of exchange was further increased from \$3.15 to \$4.00.

"In addition, the cost of repaying the company's overseas debts when these become due were similarly increased. So too, have been the expenses for all external services to the company, spare parts and overseas contracts. All of this has lifted the overall operating costs as at the end of 1983 by over \$100 million.

"You will recall that the Government in December last year granted a \$100 million subsidy annually to cushion the impact of the increase on the customers. This subsidy now has been removed and the Jamaica Public Service Company now has an increase on its fuel bill in the order of 87 percent.

"The rapid and continuous devaluation of the Jamaican dollar produced escalating cost stresses on the company each month resulting in million of dollars, which had to be absorbed by the company without resort to the consumer until now.

"I should pause to explain that one of the reasons the company was able to continue for such a long time (four months during which the Jamaican dollar fell from \$3.30 to US\$1 to \$4.11 Ja. to US\$1) was due to the increased efficiency of fuel used as a result of refurbished units which have significantly reduced the resort to gas turbines and other stand-by plants operating on expensive diesel fuel.

"Unknown to the general public is the fact that the anticipated 40 percent increase across the board in January 1984 has hardly ever gone beyond an averaging increase of 32 percent. This is a small amount perhaps, but nevertheless adding up to millions of dollars of savings to the consumers.

"It is with regret that I now have to advise the inevitable news about increased rates which must have been expected by many people watching fiscal developments in the country.

"This will mean an average increase to consumers of about 54 percent effective May 1, 1984. Of course, the actual monthly percentage will depend on fuel-use efficiency and the cost of the fuel purchased. If the trends in the improvement of the Jamaican dollar continue and the price of oil remains stable, the benefits will of course be passed on to the consumer as usual.

"There is one area of major concern in the use of energy which will shortly be addressed by the Jamaica Public Service Company. The present electricity rates as structured encourage higher use of electricity. This runs counter to the fuel conservation measures. At the moment, the consumers pay less per kilowatt hour the more they use.

"The company will immediately be embarking on a rate study with a view to restructuring the rate so that consumers will be encouraged to conserve on the use of electricity and will pay more per kilowatt hour the more they use and less per kilowatt hour the less they use. This is designed to assist those using small domestic amounts of electricity.

"Let me remind you that 39 percent of this new increase is to be passed on directly to the oil companies; 15 percent will take care of debt servicing, spare parts, cost by contractors and ancillary costs as a result of the devaluation. Let me make it very clear here that none of this increase is designed to add to the company's revenue.

"I feel very concerned because this is a harsh and tough period for us. However, we have no alternative, as the choice is between paying for the supply of electricity and getting no electricity at all."

CSO: 3298/871

MANUFACTURERS URGE FORMATION OF UTILITIES COMMISSION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Text] The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA) is calling for the setting up of a Public Utilities Commission to incorporate the office of the Public Utilities Ombudsman, together with the monitoring unit of the Ministry of Public Utilities, to let the public know what is going on in the power supply field.

In his report to the monthly meeting of the JMA's directors last week Wednesday, the President, Mr R. Anthony Williams said members had been asked to pay for increases for a period for which they should not pay.

He said: "As our members and indeed the general public try to cope with various cost increases, one needs to look at the question of utility rates and electricity in particular. An announcement on the matter was published in the Gleaner of January 1, 1984 and stated that effective January 31 there would have been a 40 percent average increase. However, on checking bills sent to some of our members dated between December 1983 and February 1984 we found that some had reasonable cases to request refunds on their bills. On May 9 we wrote the Jamaica Public Service Company requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Whether the government or the company had announced that the effective date of the increase was January 31, 1984?
2. If so, when this change was made public by the company and/or government?
3. What fuel adjustment factor had been used on the electricity bills for each month between October 1983 and March 1984?

Mr Williams said they had not yet been favoured with a reply. However, they had noted that a senior executive of JPS had indicated that electricity bills would be increased again.

(On Friday, May 19, Minister of Public Utilities, the Hon Pearnel Charles announced that electricity rates would go up by 65 percent).

Mr Williams said: "We do not object to the right of a company to seek increases to cover its expenses and to make a profit. However, this particular company is in a monopoly position. It has great impact on our lives and on the cost of inputs of goods which must compete in the international market. We feel that information on which increases in rates are based must be freely available to the public. When the Jamaica Public Service Company was owned by private individuals and prior to the takeover by government, the company was required to send regular reports of its operations to the Public Utilities Commission. Members of the public had access to these records and reports. In addition, the consumer had the opportunity to participate in hearings on rate increase applications. This is as it should be. We should have an input in the determination of how state-owned public utilities companies are administered. Government recognizing that confidence must again be placed in our dealings with these public bodies appointed an Ombudsman for Public Utilities.

This is one good step, but it has not gone far enough. The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association recommends that a Public Utilities Commission be formed to incorporate the office of the Public Utilities Ombudsman, together with the monitoring unit of the Ministry of Public Utilities. We believe that this Commission should be set up as a matter of urgency and that no further increases be granted to any of the public utility companies until this is done."

CSO: 3298/871

OIL COMPANIES SUFFERING FROM REDUCTIONS IN TRADE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Apr 84 p 4

[Text]

**SAN FERNANDO:
SOUTH TRINIDAD**

Chamber of Industry and Commerce has noted that almost all of the service and supply companies operating in the oil industry are suffering from significant reductions in the level of their trading.

"The reduction in business has been so dramatic that not only are the majority of them operating at a loss but some are close to insolvency and others have already reached that stage."

Those observations were contained in a memorandum submitted by the chamber to the Prime Minister, Mr George Chambers when he visited San Fernando recently.

The South Chamber noted that some of those companies have been left stranded with very high levels of inventories which they are unable to turn over and hence bank borrowings and amounts owed to other creditors have increased appreciably.

Those views were compiled by the chamber's energy and natu-

ral resources committee.

The memorandum stated that: "If the present stalemate in the petroleum industry continues for much longer there could be a spate of these businesses having to close down. It is important to note that several of these companies hold large amounts of parts and supplies related directly to the Texaco refinery."

It was stated that positive action by Government on those matters could go a long way to restoring business confidence in the South and help those companies to solve their problems.

Referring to "well information", the chamber noted also that at the present time all well information is protected indefinitely. "This severely restricts companies which are evaluating new prospects in the country."

The chamber believes that if such information is made available, it is felt that the

operating companies will be able to achieve greater productivity and significant cost savings. That situation could only assist the industry and the country generally.

The chamber said: "We are of the view that exploratory well information should be released after, say, three years and production well information released either immediately or for the latest after one year."

Examples of the information which should be released are in the areas of electric log information, production and test information, and geo-chemical data.

The chamber has recommended that well information be made public by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources except possibly in offshore areas where the wells are within leased areas adjoining unleased ones. The chambers believes that this is a common practice in most oil producing areas of the world.

AMOCO THREATENS CUTS UNLESS IT GETS TAX CONCESSIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 May 84 p 47

[Text]

UNLESS Amoco Trinidad Oil Company receives tax concessions from the government, the company will not undertake what it describes as "very significant investments."

Eugene Bertrand, vice-president for public relations for Amoco, said government had not yet acted upon the company's petition for tax relief.

"Until they do so, it is simply not possible for Amoco to undertake the very significant investments that would be associated with a major exploratory and development effort," he said.

The company's two top senior executives, president and general manager, Robert Powers and Bertrand made a case for concessions in interviews with officials of Amoco's parent company, Standard Oil Company of Indiana, United States.

Their views were expressed in the latest issue of "Span", a quarterly publication for stockholders and employees of Standard and Amoco.

The article which was headlined "The Treasure of Trinidad" focussed on Amoco's operations at Point Galeota on the south eastern coast and dealt at length with Amoco's "tax burden", its contribution to the economy and community development and the need for a "regulatory climate."

Bertrand, a former senior official of the Ministry of Petroleum and

Mines (now the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources) said the company's relations with government remained cordial adding that "they appear sympathetic to our dilemma."

Bertrand was optimistic that government will reduce the tax burden which the company now carries.

However, Powers said Amoco felt that it was a "viable and integral part of the overall Trinidadian economy."

He said: "We are working with goodwill to resolve those differences that exist between ourselves and the government and trust that our mutual interests will result in compromises that are advantageous to all."

Powers said petroleum could remain a significant contributor to the country's economic "well-being for many years to come."

He added that "Amoco for its part seeks a regulatory climate that will enable it to contrib-

ute in the future as it has in the past."

To support its case, Amoco said in addition to "high operating expenses" encountered in Trinidad, its tax burden is "among the highest of any country in which it maintains operations."

It added that from the start, the company's local interest had entailed "numerous high-cost elements primarily the result of the area's complex geology and the nature of its producing formations."

Powers said Amoco had contributed more than \$6.9 (U.S) billion through taxes, royalties and levies up to the end of 1983.

"Through its purchase of local goods and services, plus wages and salaries paid to its employees, Amoco has boosted the local economy by another \$6 (U.S) million."

Powers said: "Our commitment to the two-island nation, and I believe theirs to us, has been both firm and pervasive."

"One example is our corporate contributions to community developments such as schools, medical facilities and community centres has been \$1 million (U.S.) over the past three years alone."

CDB PRESIDENT DEMAS DISCUSSES RESULTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 84 p 8

[Article by Balford Henry]

[Text]

According to the President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Mr. William Demas, who was re-elected on Wednesday for a third term, there were two basic points emerging from discussion during the 14th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) which was held in Kingston between Wednesday and Thursday.

"This was probably the first meeting where the issue of structural adjustment and what the Bank can do to help has emerged in the forefront of the discussions," he told a group of journalists at a briefing on the conference Thursday.

The other main point, he said, was the question of how much additional resources the Bank could use: how much more lending could the borrowing members of the Bank absorb, and the possibility of more OECD or Western European countries becoming members.

It was Jamaica's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, who is also the current chairman of the Board of Governors, who channelled much of the discussion into the area of structural adjustment; a subject which he has declared an intention to pursue aggressively at the next Caricom Heads of Government conference in Nassau in July.

According to Mr. Demas, it is only after the July Caricom meeting, before the region will know whether Mr. Seaga will have his way and make structural adjustment the question of the decade for the Caribbean.

But while Mr. Seaga's proposals have merely been accepted for further discussion at the CDB level, so far, it appears that the member countries of the region so far have yet raised no objections.

Surplus of resources

Mr. Seaga suggested that with the addition of new members, the Bank would have a surplus of resources which many of its members would be either unable or unwilling to borrow because of their debt service capabilities.

Therefore, some of the resources should be used to re-finance short-term commercial debt of member countries, instead.

He also suggested the establishment of an Export Development Fund to provide foreign exchange to purchase raw materials for Caricom trade and a rehabilitation fund to finance new plant and equipment.

Speaking on the conference which was attended by three Eastern Caribbean leaders, as well, in Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, Mr. John Compton, Prime Minister of St. Lucia and Chief Minister John Osborne of Montserrat, Mr. Demas said:

"I think all the Governors regarded the meeting as very successful and also very well organised. Everyone was appreciative of the arrangements made by the host country, Jamaica, for the meeting," he said.

Membership

He then went on to a summary of the developments over the two days:

"First of all a Unified Special Development Fund (USDF), as a leading soft-resources Fund of the bank has been established and is now in operation. Most Governors have welcomed the establishment of this new Fund.

"Secondly, all Governors welcomed the Membership of France. In the course of this meeting the French delegate took his place as the alternate Governor for France of the CDB.

On the question of membership and resources available to the members, Mr. Demas said:

"The essential issue was, given the hard economic time most of the borrowing members are going through, whether we stabilize lending at present levels, or whether we should increase our lending. In favour of an increase in lending and therefore more resources and possibly more members, there are two considerations: One, which the Prime Minister of Jamaica made a proposal on, that during the period of structural adjustment the borrowing member countries need additional resources to finance directly structural adjustment programmes.

Commitments

"Another consideration behind the argument in favour of new members was that certain international financial institutions seem to be reducing their new commitments to some of the countries in the region. So, on the one hand, was the argument that there was a need to finance structural adjustment programmes; and, on the other hand, it was felt that because of the difficult situation most economies find themselves in, perhaps, there is no scope for increased lending by the bank and therefore a need for increased resources was safer."

Also emerging from the discussions were the questions of: The role of the CDB in advising the borrowing member countries on macro-economic policies. Most of the Bank's lending in the past had been project lending —lending for specific projects, and to make sure that those projects were successful the Bank laid down certain project conditions.

"This is in terms of a dialogue on macro-economic issues with the Governments, without our trying to ram any political thing down their throats. We got the impression that many countries, particularly the smaller OECS states, would find the on-going dialogue of some use to them."

Housing

Other subsidiary issues were: The question of whether when the Bank lends for projects, it should emphasize the direct implementary sectors or economic and social structure. Several Governments raised the issue once again. The view of the management of the Bank, was that the Bank should try as far as possible to increase lending directly to productive projects in agriculture and industry and tourism. And, it should lend to the productive sectors to a greater extent than it lends to the economic and social infrastructures such as seaports, airports, roads and public utilities.

Mr. Demas said that the issue surfaced this year at the meeting in the form of some of the borrowing Governments asking that more resources be promoted for financing housing: "We do finance housing, but we believe that while we should support housing, that the borrowing member countries should make an effort to mobilise internal resources to be counter-part to housing loans."

He said that none of the Governors opposed Mr. Seaga's suggestions on structural adjustment:

"Speaking for myself, I believe that most of the Caricom countries need a level of structural adjustment. They have to adjust now. Maybe one or two countries need a more severe form of adjustment than others, but they all require some level of adjustment.

Mr. Demas said that the question was not one of either exporting outside the region or not:

Standard of living

"Let's face the facts, with structural adjustment, the standard of living of everybody in the country has to fall: that is a fact of life. Therefore structural adjustment programmes call for very delicate and skilled economic and political management. I believe though that the more needy and vulnerable groups might get some relief, not necessarily that their pre-structural adjustment standard of living should be maintained: They would have to make some sacrifice too. I think some measures ought to be found to some extent to alleviate the hardships for the most needy and the most vulnerable groups."

Mr. Demas was asked whether the peoples could look forward to a much better life having gone through the agony of structural adjustment. He said: "Yes, if the process is successful, if we can change the structure of the economy so that we can solve the balance of payments problem; the balance of payments problem is what we might call a monetary problem, but its basic problem is a production problem — a production and consumption problem."

"There are problems of carrying balance of payments in all the Third World countries. They just can't increase production like that. It has to be efficient so that it can be cost competitive, so that it can be exported and so that it can be substituted with imports, efficiently."

"In other words the key is more production on a competitive basis — that is what structural adjustment is all about. So that you will both increase output and therefore raise the standard of living and have a reasonable balance of payment situation."

He said that because of what happened in the 1970s — including the rise in energy prices, oil importing developing countries somehow had a sharp deterioration in their terms of trade and a big fall in their real income which has become a permanent feature: "Something they are not equipped to reverse. They have got to find ways to compensate for the lowering of their incomes and the lowering of their purchasing power by increasing production of exports and import substitutes."

"In other words it's a kind of forced march towards development, but you have got to move quickly. In other words structural adjustment takes you to a higher level of development, but you have to compress the period because of the permanent changes in the world economy. So you have to do what would normally take 15 years in five minutes."

TRINIDAD MANUFACTURERS RAP JAMAICA, URGE BILATERALISM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 May 84 pp 16, 17

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) has accused a Jamaican manufacturer of "wanting to have his cake and eat it" and according to TTMA President Edward Habib "this is not acceptable to the TTMA."

Mr Habib also stated that in the light of all that was happening in the area of trade in the region the "TTMA views bilateral agreements with its Caricom partners as the only viable solution to trade in the future."

He made these observations in the wake of repeated local and regional calls for the normalisation of trade in Caricom in a document titled "An Update on Caricom."

Mr Habib confirmed that his association strongly supported the position of the Trinidad and Tobago Government as expressed by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Mr Desmond Cartey when he addressed the TTMA at its annual general meeting several weeks ago.

The document is seeking to clear the air and to put in "accurate perspective, the trade impasse currently existing in the Region."

The TTMA statement reads:

In recent weeks there have been several calls, both locally and regionally, for normalisation of trade in the Caricom region. These comments followed upon an address by the Minister of Industry, Commerce & Consumer Affairs, at the annual general meeting of the TTMA on Wednesday, March 28. Some of these calls implied that Trinidad & Tobago should take the lead in restoring trading relations within the Community, and one Jamaican manufacturer was even quoted as having said that the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, in Trinidad and Tobago was influenced by a small group of Trinidad manufacturers to implement measures which can only result in the destruction of Caricom.

The TTMA is quite amazed at some of these comments and wishes to state that we strongly support the position expressed by Minister Cartey in his address.

As a result, the TTMA wishes to bring an accurate perspective to the trade impasse currently existing in the region. To do this properly, it is necessary

to divide the region into five parts, Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, O.E.C.S. and Trinidad and Tobago, examining the trading problems as specific to each.

Jamaica

- (1) Prior to January 1983, when Jamaica introduced a parallel rate without consultation with its Caricom partners, Trinidad and Tobago did not have a licensing system for Caricom trade;
- (2) Jamaica on the other hand, introduced licensing systems and other non-tariff barriers as far back as 1977;
- (3) With the introduction of the parallel rate in Jamaica, trade in the region came to a standstill until the Barbados Heads of Government Meeting in May 1983. A Caricom rate of U.S. \$1.00 to J \$2.25 was then fixed;
- (4) Upon resumption of trade, Trinidad and Tobago issued TT \$180 million in licences to Jamaican manufacturers over the same period;
- (5) In November 1983, Jamaica announced a devaluation from J \$1.78 = U.S. \$1.00 to J\$3.15 = U.S. \$1.00, a 43 percent devaluation;
- (6) In December 1983, Jamaica gave an undertaking that they would remove all licences and trade impediments, but nothing was done. Instead, a massive list of items were classified as nonessentials and debarred from imports;
- (7) Because of the severe pressures, the devaluation has continued to the point that the last known rate (this can change weekly) was J \$3.85 = U.S. \$1.00.

The devaluation meant that an item formerly sold by Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers to Jamaica for TT \$24.00 or U.S. \$10.00 and cost Jamaica \$17.80, then \$22.50, now costs the Jamaican importer J \$38.50.

On the other hand, increases in the Jamaican made articles were significantly lower. To further compound the problem, because of continuous devaluations and grave uncertainty as to when goods imported into Jamaica can be paid for a Jamaican importer would be reluctant to import goods unless they were classified as essential or where tremendous profits can be made. The reason being that he would not know at the time importing or selling what the goods could actually cost and would therefore not know at what price to sell. The end result is that he either will mark up the goods so high so as to render them noncompetitive or not to buy at all.

Difficulties

Mr Seaga is reported to have said (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN 84/04/20) in commenting on trade in the Caicom region, "as a trading organisation it does have difficulties that are going to be difficult to overcome."

He noted that Jamaica has a policy of keeping the exchange rate of its dollar low so its exports are relatively cheap abroad. This of course has upset the

traditional balances in costs and has given Jamaican production a decided advantage. There are some countries that are not able to tolerate a change of that level in the competitiveness of the system without yielding up a good part of their domestic economy.

It is likely that this is going to spill over in restrictiveness and other measures that may cause Caricom to be far more restrictive in the future than it has been."

In this light, can the comments of the Jamaican manufacturer be justified? We say they want to have their cake and eat it. It is not clear from the above who has tried to use Caricom for their sole benefit rather than the regional good. We say the Jamaican manufacturer wants to have his cake and eat it, (i.e. have his market and ours too), and this is not acceptable to TTMA.

To sum up the Jamaican situation, the TTMA is acknowledging that:

(i) Jamaica has a severe balance of payment problem and has to tightly control external payments, resulting in the difficulty in paying its Caricom partners, including Trinidad and Tobago.

(ii) Because of the Jamaican devaluations, its manufacturers are now far more competitive than others in the region.

(iii) The once vibrant market of Jamaica is now a small uncertain market which Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers view with great caution.

It seems that the only possible methods for resumption in trade in the short term, are either:

(a) To counter trade or barter trade between items manufactured in Jamaica, but not in Trinidad and Tobago, and vice versa or

(b) to arrive at a new Caricom rate to reduce the competitive gain now enjoyed by the Jamaican manufacturer because of the devaluations.

In the medium term, a currency alignment in the region is necessary if the Common Market is to best serve the needs of the Community.

Barbados

The problems related to trade in this Territory can be named as follows:

(1) The Barbados Negative List wherein ceiling prices on imports from Third Countries are significantly lower than those existing in Trinidad and Tobago;

(2) Stamp Duty (3%) on all imports including Caricom imports; (not in the spirit of Caricom);

(3) Despite solemn assurances given in May 1983, repeated in July and confirmed at the level of the Heads of Government, and subsequent reminders by

way of an exchange of notes, discriminatory taxation on soft drinks in cans levied by one country, continues to the extent that a market which had been found and developed for such items for some years, has been closed and remains closed. It is to be noted that this same country imposes a tax of 5 percent per bottle, on beer in disposable bottles, as compared with the .50 cents levied on canned soft drinks.

We feel that if a Regional Negative List and Ceiling Price Regime can be agreed upon along with the removal of other trade impediments, then trading relations with Barbados could improve.

O.E.C.S.

There continues to be a lack of integrity in the movement on the part of several of these territories. And as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated: "It is never the intention that products requiring minimal processing (and in some notable instances, no processing at all) should qualify for Caricom treatment." In spite of several appeals by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago, this continues, to the detriment of industry (in Trinidad and Tobago) and loss of jobs in Trinidad and Tobago to other countries outside the region where the majority of processing takes place.

"Trinidad and Tobago," as quoted by the minister, "has hoped to encourage and it is still our wish, a minimum depth of process to which all industrialised countries within the region should aspire.

This minimum depth of process would save and create jobs in the region as opposed to exporting them. Each of the governments of the countries should undertake to stamp out the irregularities in their territories for improved trading relations to take place."

We suggest that the depth of manufacturing should be the criterion rather than value added which includes profits.

Guyana

This country has suffered severe balance of payments problems for the past five years and is virtually unable to pay for imports. Its export capability, however, has not been affected. We see therefore a possible solution for counter or barter trade only with this territory.

In the above context, unlimited access for Caricom imports into Trinidad and Tobago where a single market is virtually the sole recipient for 80 percent of export production of member territories, cannot be sustained.

It is true that Trinidad and Tobago bent over backwards to honour the Caricom Agreement. It is true that Trinidad and Tobago provided almost \$1,000 million worth of aid, directly or indirectly.

Is it not time for the other territories to take the lead and show their willingness to participate in the true spirit of the Treaty? Why Trinidad and Tobago again? "No!" "No!" says TTMA.

In conclusion, the fact that we have found it necessary to divide the Region into five parts and treat each separately is a clear indication that the TTMA views bilateral trade agreements with its Caricom partners as the only viable solution to trade in the future.

CSO: 3298/833

RICKEY SINGH DENIES 'SPY' CHARGES BY BARBADOS' ADAMS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 May 84 p 4

[Text] Bridgetown, Wed., (CANA): Rickey Singh, the Guyana-born former editor of CARIBBEAN CONTACT, whose permit to work in Barbados was revoked last year, has disputed allegations by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams that he had contact with foreign spies.

Adams was quoted by the London-based publication CARIBBEAN INSIGHT as saying that these contacts "took on a particular intensity at the time of the Grenada crisis"--a reference to the October 19 overthrow of the leftist Government in St. George's and the subsequent U.S.-Caribbean military intervention to oust the army.

The Barbados Prime Minister was answering a question as to why he revoked the work permit of Singh, who was based in Bridgetown, where the newspaper of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) is published.

The permit was withdrawn last November, 21 months before it was due to expire, after Singh wrote a series of articles critical of the invasion of Grenada. Adams played a key role in persuading Washington to intervene to oust a military council that assumed power after the bloody coup.

Adams told INSIGHT that he was giving this latest statement "in the interests of journalists themselves." Journalists associations in the hemisphere had criticised the decision to revoke the work permit.

Singh, in a statement to CANA today, insisted that the decision came because of his "principled stand" in his articles "written...at a period when it was clearly not wise for members of my profession to challenge the powers that be."

He also said that he had refuted at a meeting with Adams last November 9, that any of "my Cuban friends" were members of the Cuban intelligence service. "I said then I had no such knowledge..."

Adams spoke of the Barbados Government's concern at Singh's alleged contacts: "He (Singh) never denied it. He said he did not know they were intelligence officers. But he did not explain how they came to his house in the early hours of the morning, or why he took evasive action when visiting places where meetings were expected to take place."

COLOMBIA SCORES PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ECUADOR

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 84 p 9-A

[Article by Jose Suarez]

[Text] Colombia considers it unacceptable for Ecuador to continue receiving the preferential treatment envisaged by the Andean Pact for relatively less developed countries. According, it believes that the status of that nation should be differentiated from that of Bolivia.

It also considers that, in the area of foreign investment, the transformation regime of Decision 24 (statute on foreign capital in the Andean Pact) should be liberalized and that it is necessary to increase the number of cases in which foreign investment may be accepted in existing national companies in the member countries.

For the current government, within the context and complex situation of the Andean Pact, "it should be asked the national interests of Colombia and the community interests of the subregion could be better served by mechanisms other than those of the Cartagena Agreement."

This last argument was interpreted in Colombia business circles as an insinuation that either the fundamental structure of the integration process should be changed or different directions should be sought.

The Colombian position on the Cartagena Agreement is presented in a document in limited circulation that President Betancur's administration submitted for consideration by the Mixed Committee on Foreign Trade. This led to the creation of a subcommittee that will examine the Andean situation in depth and present to the administration recommendations on the direction to take on this front.

Official sources consulted by EL TIEMPO indicated that the subcommittee's conclusions should be presented before the end of the month in order to provide new arguments to the plenipotenciary representatives of Colombia at the next meeting of the Committee on the Cartagena Agreement, which will take place within 2 weeks.

Colombian officials believe that there is a need for "an integration scheme that is less ambitious but more in line with the economic reality of the member countries." In this way, "it would have, from the national and community point of view, the advantage of being more secure and reliable, thus reducing the risks presented to the private sector by the recent performance of the Andean Pact."

"The signing of a protocol modifying the Cartagena Agreement is indispensable," states one section of the official document.

The evolution of the process over the last 5 years, "leads to the conclusion that the progress achieved has been limited. In addition to disturbing legal gaps caused by failure to meet deadlines, situations have been generated which have destabilized the conditions that support the flow of trade," it states.

Among other aspects of concern are the inoperativeness of the industrial program, the decline in trade and the automatic, irrevocable advance of the program of liberalization, the viability of which is questionable.

Colombia points out how its minor exports to the Andean area increased 571 percent between 1970 and 1982, with a positive trade balance between 1970 and 1980. By 1983 the trends had changed radically: exports fell 60.4 percent and the trade deficit rose 55.4 percent.

After citing Colombia's progress on all fronts of economic management and industrial development, which is greater than that of the other countries, it states that many circumstances have changed and that consequently, "the commercial results of exchanges with the Andean Pact have become unfavorable for Colombia."

It also asserts that for years the Andean negotiations "have produced few tangible results" and that "there is a need to reform the standards governing the process, since the current standards have turned out to be inadequate for regulating all of the situations that have occurred."

For Colombia, "this reform should be implemented as soon as possible in order to avoid the prolongation of the critical situation in subregional trade."

The Colombian position on the reform of the Andean Pact, the expansion of facilities for foreign investment and the status of Ecuador as a less developed country are expressed in the following points, which are the foundation of the aforementioned document.

1. With a view to adjusting them to the realities of subregional trade, some commitments to trade liberalization should be made more flexible. This implies preserving, as far as possible, the reciprocal flow of trade, but accepting the reversibility of the Liberalization Program and the equitable expansion of the Lists of Exceptions when circumstances so dictate. As an alternative to the extremes of the Liberalization Program and the Lists of Exceptions, an intermediate regime should be established which will allow the importing country to exercise a certain degree of control over the trade

flow of certain products in accordance with guidelines agreed upon by the community. This should permit the negotiation of bilateral pacts on the basis of reciprocity and nonextensibility in the case of products that do not come completely under the Program of Liberalization. These agreements could form the framework for the exchange and payment operations.

2. The effort should be continued to define the mechanisms that regulate the conditions of subregional authority, but adjusting them to the new modalities of commercial trade. The right to the benefits of the Liberalization Program should be contingent on strict compliance.

3. In industrial programming the content will change radically. The establishment of sectoral programs with any plural number of countries should be permitted; and in these programs quotas and the commitment not to exceed them should be eliminated.

4. The norms regulating agricultural and livestock trade should be adapted to the characteristics peculiar to the sector. This implies ensuring the operation of an effective margin of preference, even in the case of purchases by official entities, and the establishment of measures that permit regulation of trade in all agricultural and livestock products.

The new orientation of agricultural and livestock integration will also include the actions to promote food production and security envisaged in the Jose Celestino Mutis Agreement.

5. There should be a differentiation between the preferential treatment granted to Bolivia and Ecuador, since the former has moved backwards in relative and absolute terms since the establishment of the Andean Pact while the latter is approaching, in many indicators, the development levels of Colombia and Peru. It is unacceptable for Ecuador to continue receiving the benefits of the Liberalization Program without reciprocity.

6. In regard to foreign investment, the transformation regime of Decision 24 should be liberalized and there should be an expansion of the number of cases in which foreign investment may be accepted in existing national companies. Otherwise, the provisions of the Development Plan are still valid in the sense that the Andean norms, properly interpreted, will provide an adequate framework of stability and security for foreign investment.

7. There should be greater flexibility in the norms regarding the application of the various safeguard clauses with a view to making them more operative and realistic and reducing the discretionary powers of the governing body of the Cartagena Agreement in this regard.

FRIDAY 18 MAY 1984 - EL TIEMPO - 9-A

COLOMBIAN TRADE WITH THE ANDEAN PACT

1982-1983

(U.S. Dollars in Millions)

| | <u>1982</u> | <u>1983</u> | <u>Percentage Change</u> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| BOLIVIA | | | |
| Exports | 1.4 | 1.9 | + 35.07 |
| Imports | 6.2 | 6.2 | - |
| Balance | -4.8 | 4.3 | - 10.4 |
| ECUADOR | | | |
| Exports | 57.6 | 56.2 | - 2.4 |
| Imports | 194.1 | 157.4 | - 18.1 |
| Balance | -136.5 | -101.2 | - 25.9 |
| PERU | | | |
| Exports | 35.7 | 22.0 | - 38.4 |
| Imports | 167.7 | 93.3 | - 55.6 |
| Balance | -132.0 | -73.3 | - 44.5 |
| VENEZUELA | | | |
| Exports | 401.1 | 116.2 | - 71.0 |
| Imports | 436.2 | 426.4 | - 2.2 |
| Balance | - 35.1 | - 310.2 | + 783.8 |
| TOTAL | | | |
| Exports | 495.7 | 196.3 | - 60.5 |
| Imports | 809.1 | 683.3 | - 15.8 |
| Balance | -313.4 | -487.0 | + 55.4 |

Source: Registros INCOMEX

Colombia's trade with the other countries of the Andean Pact has developed in the last 2 years as illustrated in this table.

12351

CSO: 3348/433

ST LUCIA HAILS TRINIDAD ACTION ON IMPORT LICENSES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 84 p 5

[Text]

CASTRIES, Thurs., (Cana):
GOVERNMENT and trade officials here today welcomed Trinidad and Tobago's assurance that it will give "expeditious attention" to the processing of import licences from St Lucia.

The announcement, made last Friday in Port-of-Spain by Trinidad and Tobago's Industry and Commerce Minister Desmond Cartey, came after persistent efforts by St Lucian authorities to get the twin-island republic relax an import licensing system it introduced a year ago.

St. Lucia, which has a large market in Trinidad and Tobago for manufactured goods, especially garments, had been complaining that the restriction was not only hurting its export trade but resulting in layoffs in local factories as well.

Today, the Ministry of Trade here expressed elation with Cartey's announcement. Said Permanent Secretary Edwin Laurent: "We hope that

this ministerial statement would in fact be reflected in the actions of the administrative departments in Trinidad which issue the licences."

Laurent said Cartey's claim that Trinidad and Tobago has an adverse trade balance with the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries did not apply to St Lucia.

According to him, last year, St Lucia imported goods valued at \$24.9 million from Trinidad while exports to Port-of-Spain from here totalled \$13.5 million.

"If there is a freer flow of our exports once more, there should be a modest improvement in our employment situation here because a lot of jobs have both threatened and lost during this difficult period," Laurent said.

The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce also welcomed the Trinidad announcement. Executive secretary Ruth Mc Farlane said her organisation had been hoping for a development of this nature for some time.

"We are happy that it has come," she said, adding that the Port-of-Spain restrictions had been affecting St Lucian manufacturers greatly.

CSO: 3298/849

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO, BARBADOS AGREE ON JOINT AIR SERVICE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT-to-government relations have been stepped up between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in the field of air transportation.

Agreement has been reached in principle for a joint service on the Barbados/London/Europe route by State-owned British West Indian Airways (BWIA) and Barbados-operated Caribbean Airways.

This was the outcome of a meeting earlier this month between Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of State Enterprises, Mr. Ronald Williams, and Mr. Bernard St. John, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados. The Barbados meeting was aimed at promoting greater co-operation between the two regional states in matters related to air transport.

The proposed joint venture is to enable Caribbean Airways to improve its operating viability and to assist forever-in-the-red BWIA to reduce its annual losses.

A government source explained yesterday that the executives of BWIA and Caribbean Airways have been "mandated by the Ministers to examine urgently the options for providing a joint service and to report back to them."

It was stated that the options proposed must be "consistent with the overriding imperative of improving the profitability of each airline."

The joint venture plan ties in with ongoing issues being discussed between the Ministry of State Enterprises and BWIA on issues affecting adversely the operations of the airline.

Matters in discussion take in:

- Unfair competition and monopoly practices;
- Bilateral air service agreements, charter operations and cargo transportation;
- Establishment of new ventures including establishment of duty-free shopping at Piarco Airport for returning passengers;
- Cost-cutting exercises;
- Improvement to the terminal facilities and operation of Trinidad-Tobago air bridge.

Discussions have been instituted to assist BWIA to eliminate "unacceptably" large losses sustained since its inception."

The source continued: "The need to eliminate these losses has been more urgent now in view of the clear notice which the Minister of Finance has served that the Treasury can no longer continue to absorb these losses. BWIA must come out of a loss position and do so rapidly."

Losses published for BWIA — 1978 (\$57 million); 1979 (\$75 million); 1980 (\$115 million); 1981 (\$100 million); 1982 (\$75 million); cash deficit of \$50 million in 1983 expected to be reduced to \$10 million this year.

BRIEFS

CDB ACTIONS--The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved more than \$14 million (U.S.) in new loans and grants for regional and national projects with most of the money intended for a reequipment programme being undertaken by the inter-island airline LIAT. This decision, among others, was undertaken at the 87th meeting of the bank's board of directors held at the CDB's headquarters in Barbados earlier this month. At the meeting the board authorised the bank's president William G. Demas to sign the following: 1. Two agreements with the European Economic Community (EEC) in respect of loans for \$2 million (U.S.) and \$13.7 million (U.S.) for use by LIAT in its reequipment programme and, 2. A nonreimbursible grant agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the sum of \$12.7 million (U.S.) towards a second basic needs programme for the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Belize. The LIAT loan for \$13.7 million (U.S.) is the second approved in a month by CDB for the airline. On March 15, the directors approved a loan of \$2 million and grant of \$2.6 million (U.S.) for the airline. The loans and the grant are made from resources provided under a special arrangement with the EEC and would assist in financing an extensive modernisation programme involving the purchase of four new 50-seat aircraft, expansion of workshop, acquisition of tools and equipment and further training of personnel. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 84 p 10]

CSO: 3298/833

ANOTHER PLP OFFICIAL QUITS PARTY TO JOIN OPPOSITION FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 May 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

ANOTHER ONE of the Prime Minister's staunch generals, Rev Kendall Munroe of Little Creek, South Andros, has thrown in the towel after 17 years and crossed over to the Opposition Free National Movement.

Disillusioned with the high unemployment rate and deprived conditions under which South Androsians must live, Rev Munroe said he can no longer believe the empty promises of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling. He is the second "general" to leave Sir Lynden in less than a month.

"I am fully convinced that it is time for the Prime Minister to go. He is not fishing any more. He is not cutting bait anymore. So he knows what to do. Get out of the boat," Rev Munroe, who has campaigned for Sir Lynden since 1967, advised.

Rev Munroe made his statement to The Tribune today in the company of Orthniel Lewis, chairman of the FNM's Bluff, Andros branch. He wanted to make it clear to PLPs in South Andros and throughout the Bahamas that he no longer supports the Prime Minister or his PLP party.

"I now make it very clear that I support the leader of the Opposition, Mr Kendal Isaacs, and the Free National Movement," Rev Munroe said.

"I am disappointed and fed up with the bad representation of the Prime Minister in South

Andros and it is time that we wake up and see that the Prime Minister has lost all interest in us. Therefore, I am saying to the people of South Andros it is time for a change. The Prime Minister has continued to mislead the people with promises which he has no intention of fulfilling," Rev Munroe said.

He said that Sir Lynden has promised to give South Andros electricity since 1978 "and up to this day we don't have it."

The Prime Minister promised that South Andros would have a dock for the mailboat, but "we don't have it yet."

Sir Lynden promised full employment by 1980 "yet there is mass unemployment in South Andros and the Prime Minister is doing nothing to alleviate the mass unemployment that is in his constituency."

He said that 62 of the 70 people who voted in Little Creek during the last election supported Sir Lynden, "but at the present time there are only two people employed out of the community." He said that there are some people who are afraid to voice their dissatisfaction with the PLP. He urged them to speak up because they have nothing to lose.

Rev Munroe recalled that during the last elections, some South Androsian women lifted Sir Lynden from his plane to the car, so that his feet wouldn't touch the ground.

However, he said that since

the general elections, Sir Lynden has not met with the people of Little Creek to let them know what he intends to do for them.

He said that because of the unemployment situation, the children of South Andros have to leave home when they finish school because there are no jobs for them.

Rev Munroe challenged Sir Lynden, or any other PLP in his Kemp's Bay constituency, to refute what he had to say.

"After the people of South Andros have so wholeheartedly supported him he came down and called them fools to their faces. That's the thanks we got. But, I say watch out Pindling, some fools are catching their senses. You will meet somebody in your way come the next election and things will not be as easy for you as in other times," Rev Munroe said.

He warned that he is prepared to do whatever he can to unseat Sir Lynden "because the Prime Minister does not have the (welfare) of the people at

heart as he would have us believe."

Rev Munroe was of the opinion that Sir Lynden is merely brainwashing the people with his "empty promises."

"It is my opinion that the Prime Minister, in his dealings, keeps the people of South Andros poor so that they can always humble at his feet. If the Prime Minister wanted investors in South Andros, they would have been there. But, I am convinced that he doesn't want any there," Rev Munroe said.

"I wish to warn the Prime Minister that God is going to call him into judgment for taking advantage of misinformed and misguided people in South Andros."

Rev Munroe said that those who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

Another staunch general, Mr Shervin Bain, announced on Friday, May 13 - Black Friday - that he had left the party to join the FNM. Mr Bain also made reference to the 1978 promise for electricity.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS \$30-MILLION LOAN FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

DEPUTY PRIME Minister and Minister of Finance Arthur Hanna today moved a resolution in the House of Assembly seeking approval for government to borrow \$30 million to assist in defraying expenditure on capital development.

Mr Hanna also announced that any bills contracted by a government officer with any business without an authorised warrant, will not be paid by government. The officers, Mr Hanna said, will be made to pay the bill from their own pockets.

This was disclosed by Mr Hanna following a statement by Mr Isaacs that government has a number of unpaid local bills, to the extent that some businesses have cut off government credit.

"No one has any authority to credit anything on behalf of government without a proper warrant signed by the treasurer," Mr Hanna said. "There are many cases in which a Ministry credits something without a warrant and we won't pay it."

"If a Ministry officer goes and credits something without a warrant he will pay the bill himself out of his own pocket, if he credits labour, items services or anything," Mr Hanna said.

Mr Hanna denied that certain bills were not paid by government because they could not afford it.

"I agree there may be certain people that government needs to pay more promptly, but the delay is not because government cannot afford it. Government has always had the capacity to pay," Mr Hanna said.

Mr Hanna pointed out that government has always been able to carry out any short falls in its cash flow by advances from banks. He said also that when certain banks have cash flow shortages they are assisted by government.

It was pointed out to Mr Hanna by FNM Blue Hills representative Arthur Foulkes that student nurses and school bus drivers are not paid by government for months at a time.

"It would seem to me that government does have financial difficulties if they can't pay student nurses for months on end," Mr Foulkes said. "When the public looks at these things it would put some doubt in their minds as to the solvency of the government. The public is entitled to an explanation."

Mr Hanna said there was a reason for all the delays in

payment. With regards to the nurses and other government officers he said when they are paid, it is done so "all at once and in full."

"The case of the school buses is a special case and the drivers know what the problem is. A lot has to be ironed out in that matter," Mr Hanna said.

On the point of borrowing more money for capital development, Carmichael MP Frank Watson pointed out that in 1979 government received approval to borrow \$21 million for the infrastructural development of the south easternly islands, such as Acklins and Crooked Island.

In 1981 they received provisions to build a softball stadium in New Providence and an adolescent psychiatric centre at Sandilands. All of this was approved in the budget, Mr Watson said, but not carried out. Yet, he said, all funds allocated for capital works have been spent.

Mr Hanna retorted that the House never approved for these things to be done now. Government simply submitted a list of what they intended to do with the money approved, but, he said, "we have the right to change our minds in midstream."

CSO: 3298/882

PINDLING AT YOUTH RALLY DISCOUNTS EARLY ELECTION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 May 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling last night urged PLP supporters in Fort Charlotte not to "worry" about talk about an early general election. He told Young Liberals that the party wants 65 per cent of the votes there in 1987, when the next general elections must be held.

"Young Liberals, you heard what your MP said tonight," the Prime Minister said in an address at the regular monthly meeting of the PLP Fort Charlotte Branch at the T G Glover School. "Fifty-eight and a half per cent in 1982 when he was aiming for 60 per cent, that will never satisfy me."

"Now your job is to make sure that next time it is 65 per cent. I don't want you aiming for it. OK, if you want something to aim for, aim at 70," he said. "And remember, if you aim for 70, I want you to get 65 per cent."

"You ought to be able to get 65 per cent in Fort Charlotte in 1987. Don't worry about what the other fellows say, unless you get the time from me, you tell them that ain't the time," the Prime Minister said.

Before addressing the large crowd that filled the school-room, the Prime Minister presented certificates to nine branch members in recognition of their work in the constituency since 1977.

Also present at the meeting were Fort Charlotte MP Valen-

tine Grimes, Rock Sound MP James Moultrie, PLP Chairman Brenville Hanna, Secretary General Senator Berlin Pratt, Second Vice Chairman Charlie Major, Jr, Fourth Vice Chairman Hassam Brown and Young Liberals Chairman Trevor Whyly.

The Prime Minister, who opened himself up for questioning at the end of his talk, told his audience that the country is about to face a crisis in human relations and communication, and that he is distressed by the way in which young men treat young women.

He said that Women's Lib may have something to do with it and that women may have pushed their luck a little too far too fast and too soon, but that he may be wrong.

"I think that we are about to face, if we are not facing it already, a crisis in human relations," he said, adding that he means that Bahamians no longer think about each other and treat each other the way they used to.

Noting that there are three reasons for that, the Prime Minister said: "Some of us have forgotten how, some of us never knew how, others said they think it's old fashion and don't want to do it anymore."

"Well, I have a sneaky suspicion that whether we have just forgotten or whether we don't want to or we never

knew, that our inability to deal properly with each other at a human and personal level, accounts for part of the problems that we face," he said.

He criticized the way friends talk to each other, how mothers talk to their children and fathers for not talking to their children at all.

"Somehow fathers have something against talking," he said. "They may grumble something to their wives but they don't want to talk to their children at all and they just shove that aside and say that for your mummy to deal with."

"What distresses me most is how young men treat young women," the Prime Minister said.

He asked why is it that young men no longer open doors for young women anymore or pull out a chair for ladies, young or old, anymore, and why they don't stand when a lady enters a

room anymore.

He said that some may call it old fashioned and tired behaviour but questioned whether good behaviour can ever be tired behaviour.

"I think that women's lib might have had something to do with it," he said. "And it may well be that the ladies pushed their luck a little too far too fast too soon. Now that's my point of view. I may be dead wrong."

"And therefore that set up a reaction in the other sex who said well, sorry, if you think you are that hard and you want me to open the door for you, why don't you open it yourself," he said.

"I think that may have something to do with it, but even if that is true, that's not really the answer because a lady is a lady and she is therefore entitled to be treated as a lady unless she doesn't wish to be treated as a lady," he said.

CSO: 3298/882

\$45-MILLION HOUSING PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts]

AN AMBITIOUS \$45 million housing programme for the poor and lower middle class was outlined in Parliament yesterday afternoon.

The new social scheme, which will provide low interest loans through the Ministry of Housing's Mortgage Corporation, is expected to benefit hundreds of families a year. The National Insurance Board will put up at least half of the funds.

Housing and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham said that the success of the programme will depend to a large extent on "how much stock the private sector takes up." He suspected that the commercial banks together would be able to contribute a little under one quarter of the \$45 million, and that insurance companies would plough some of their profits into the scheme.

Mr Ingraham's housing programme drew enthusiastic support from both Government and Opposition members.

"It seems that at long last the PLP Government has become conscious of the need to do something imaginative and extensive enough to meet the needs (of the people)," Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes (FNM) said.

Mr Foulkes worried that Mr Ingraham might not get the full support of his colleagues because "history has not been kind to good Ministers" in the PLP, "especially when it's rumoured that he aspires to be number one."

Mr Ingraham said that the scheme would not be political and that he would not be directly involved in approving applications.

Sums of up to \$75,000, but generally under \$50,000, will be loaned at a general rate of two and a half per cent above the rate at which the money was borrowed. Interest rates will

generally range from 8½ to 12½ per cent, depending on a family's income and other circumstances. Two per cent of this has been pegged for a mortgage insurance fund, which will step in if the borrower defaults.

According to a 1983/4 Ministry conducted Housing Needs Study, the Bahamas needs close to 2,000 additional housing units per year for the balance of this decade - double the rate at which housing is now being constructed. In addition to new housing, there is a requirement for 500 housing rehabilitations a year.

The projected investment in new housing and rehabilitation required to the end of this decade is \$564 million in 1983 dollars.

Mr Ingraham said that financing of this magnitude must be made available through Bahamian individuals and financial institutions if the housing requirements are to be met.

CSO: 3298/882

SIX POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH VARIETY OF CRIMES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Text]

SIX police officers were released on bail today after being charged in the magistrates court with armed robbery, possession of a firearm, causing harm and making threats of death.

Arraigned before magistrate John Lester on the armed robbery charge were Philip Rolle, 19, of South Beach; Elcid Evans, 19, of Big Pond Subdivision, Glenford Ferguson, 19, of Ridgeland Park and Philip Sturup, 18, of Brougham Street.

They are jointly accused of robbing Jackson Joseph of \$175 on May 21 while armed with a shotgun. They were further charged with being in possession of a firearm while committing an indictable offence.

They were each released on \$5000 bail with one surety to return for a preliminary inquiry into the matter on June 26.

Rolle, Ferguson and Sturup were represented by lawyer Charles Mackey and Evans was represented by lawyer Rhonda Bain.

Rolle and Evans were further charged with two other counts of possessing a firearm with intent to put someone in fear. They are jointly accused with Abner Saunders, 18, of Cumberbatch Alley, and Denis Cleare, 23, of Odle Corner, of possessing a shotgun May 22 to put Headley Brice in fear.

The four were also charged with assaulting Brice and threatening to kill him. A preliminary inquiry will open June 26. Each of the accused was \$5000 bail with one surety.

Saunders was not represented by counsel. Cleare was represented by lawyer Godfrey Pinder, and Rolle and Evans were represented by lawyers Charles Mackey and Rhonda Bain respectively.

CSO: 3298/882

UNIONS, FNM AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT LABOR POLICIES

Isaacs on Unemployment

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 May 84 p 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

CABBAGE Hill, Crooked Island: Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, told over 100 enthusiastic supporters at a rally in this southeastern island Saturday night that unemployment in the Bahamas today "is the fault" of the PLP Government.

According to Mr Isaacs, with a caring and competent Government, the state of affairs and the economy of the Bahamas could be turned around in a matter of months.

Declaring that there is unemployment either because Government doesn't care for the Bahamas or because they are incompetent, the Free National Movement leader also accused Government of seeking to "enslave the minds" of Bahamians by keeping them poor and dependent upon Government.

"You know, the awful thing about the conditions that exist, not just in Acklins or in Crooked Island, but conditions that exists in Southern Andros, Mayaguana, in Cat Island and Exuma, in almost every island in the Bahamas, we have this plight of unemployment," Mr Isaacs told the rally.

"Now if, in spite of everything that the Government could do, unemployment was necessary and couldn't be done

away with, we could say: 'OK, this is a problem which nobody could solve, it's not the Government's fault, there's not much we could do about it,' he said.

"But, you know, that is not so. Unemployment in this country today is the fault of the, PLP Government. The poor conditions that exist, also in Acklins I noticed, as in Crooked Island, the poor conditions exist because either the PLP Government don't care about the people of the Bahamas or they are incompetent to do anything for the welfare of the people of the Bahamas.

"Or, as one speaker said, it seems as if they want to keep the people dependent upon them, keep them poor, just before the election give them a little something, give them some promises and that, that way enslave, and I use that word advisedly, enslave their minds," he said.

"It is time, ladies and gentlemen, that we wake up, and you know, I am happy and proud to say that the people of the Bahamas are waking up," he said.

Mr Isaacs headed a group of FNM members, including Shirlea MP Pierre Dupuch, Englerston candidate Alvy Penn, Acklins-Crooked island

candidate hopeful Rupert "Lipstick" Williamson, Torch Editor Lionel Dorsett and Torchbearers public relations officer Fred Williamson, on a 28-hour jaunt through Acklins and Crooked Island beginning Saturday morning.

The party flew first to Pinefield, Acklins, and toured the southern settlements of Chesters and Lovely Bay, where they received a warm and enthusiastic reception from residents, the majority of whom complained about PLP neglect of the island.

Later the party flew to Crooked Island and passed through the settlements of Colonel Hill and Cabbage Hill, where a rally was held before Mr Isaacs addressed a National Youth Week ceremony.

On Sunday morning, the FNM contingent returned to Acklins, landing at the Spring Point airport and toured the northern settlements of Hard Hill and Snug Corner before attending a Mother's Day church service at Pine Field.

Other speakers at the rally included Mr Dupuch, Mr Rupert Williamson, Mr Fred Williamson and Mr Julius Bonaby, a Crooked island FNM supporter, while Mr Penn chaired the meeting at the Cabbage Hill School.

Mr Isaacs told his cheering audience, who crowded the schoolroom and stood at the doors and windows, that in New Providence the people are having the "scales" fall from their eyes.

He said that Bahamians in New Providence have been promised, "and hear me, they have been promised a better life, full employment and that they would have such a quality of life that they would be the envy of the rest of the world."

"And you know, especially the people Over-the-Hill, who were responsible mainly for putting the PLP into power, they are the ones who are suffering and they are the ones who have been promised the earth, and these promises are repeated before every general elections and again up until 1982 anyway the people of the Bahamas have fallen for these false promises and again have elected the PLP Government," the opposition leader said.

"But now, I say that the people are having the scales fall from their eyes because you know what they have seen: if you are going to judge someone you want to know what is its track record, what it has done in the past to justify your putting faith in him for the future," Mr Isaacs said.

"Because," he added, "if he had done nothing in the past, if he has been incompetent and dishonest in the past, then the odds are that he is going to be dishonest and incompetent in the future."

He said the PLP has been given every chance for 17 years from 1967 until today. He wanted to know what the PLP

has done in Acklins during that period.

He told the crowd that he visited Acklins in 1971 just before the 1972 election and the road was better than it is now, and the conditions were not very good with unemployment.

"But you know, today, 17 years later, conditions have not changed, unless, of course, they have changed for the worse. They haven't changed for the better, and the awful thing about it is that with a caring and competent government, the state of affairs and the economy of this country can be turned around in a matter of months," he said.

"I tell you that because I have been assured of that," he said. "I have been in contact with local investors and foreign investors and all they want is a government that they can trust."

He noted that he was campaigning three weeks ago in the Kemps Bay, South Andros constituency of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and had been there in 1982 just before the general elections.

"And I told the people there exactly what I am telling you now that...no...no...no, I told them a little more because you've got just a backbencher (Wilbert Moss, MP) to represent you in Acklins and Crooked Island, a man who has to depend on his Cabinet, the Prime Minister and his Ministers before he can do anything for you, but the Prime Minister is the representative for Kemps Bay."

"And I told them in 1982 that over the years the Prime Minister of the country, the most powerful man in the

country, that he has done absolutely nothing for Kemps Bay in 17 years. And as I said earlier, if he hasn't done anything in the past, you must not expect anything in the future," he said.

He noted that two of the Prime Minister's "generals" in the Kemps Bay constituency, Capt Sherwin Bain and Rev Kendal Munroe, have come over to the FNM.

"Two men who supported the PLP from 1967 and who like, so many of the good people of the Bahamas, believed in the promises of the Prime Minister until their patience ran out because they have come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister meant them no good whatsoever," Mr Isaacs said.

"As I said earlier, if he is the most powerful man in the country, then surely he could have done something for his constituency but he has done absolutely nothing," he said. "There is as little employment there as there is in Acklins and Crooked Island."

Reiterating that the scales are falling from the eyes of the Bahamian people and in New Providence, more and more Bahamians are seeing the PLP Government in their true light and are seeing that they mean the Bahamian people no good whatsoever.

He said it is his information that Acklins and Crooked Island are in the same category and the scales are falling from the eyes of the residents because there is a better quality of life out there for them with a caring, competent and honest government.

Criticism of Maynard

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

LABOUR AND Home Affairs Minister Clement Maynard has not been invited to address the annual Labour Day rally at Windsor Park on June 1.

The Trade Union Congress, which applied for permission to use Windsor Park for the rally in early April, was told only last Friday that they would be able to use the grounds.

TUC secretary general Leonard Archer criticised the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs, from which permission must be granted, for taking so long to reply to the TUC's request.

Mr Archer said it is ridiculous that a Minister, who is paid \$60,000 a year, has to decide whether the parks, "which belong to the people," can be used by the people.

"It is utterly ridiculous that a high servant is involved in such petty matters. No wonder our country is going to hell," he said.

Mr Archer said that the TUC has yet to receive a reply to an application it made in February for permission to hold a prayer meeting at Clifford Park.

"The parks belong to the people and if the Government can't get off their backside and approve (applications), then the people will have to take the matter into their own hands. The Government is supposed to be representing the people, not hindering them," he said.

Mr Archer said that the TUC has decided against inviting any politicians to address this year's rally. He pointed out that Mr

Maynard has only attended one Labour Day rally since he became Minister of Labour in October, 1979.

Mr Maynard, who was formerly Minister of Tourism, pleaded ill on Labour Day in 1980 and sent his permanent secretary H C Walkine to fill in for him. Mr Walkine, who is now at the Ministry of Works, was booed, jeered and drowned out by the workers who demanded, "We want Clem...where is Clem?" Mr Maynard's absence earned him the nickname - "Ducking Clem."

Mr Maynard made his first and only appearance at the TUC-sponsored Labour Day rally in 1982. He was booed and half of his speech was drowned out by jeers. The police had to move close to Mr Maynard when political agitator Rodney Moncur and his followers moved towards the speakers' platform. Mr Moncur was removed from the building.

The PLP organized a political march on Labour Day in 1982, which was an election year. For the first time in history, there were two separate "Labour Day" marches. The workers were divided. Mr Maynard

attended the PLP rally.

Last year, Mr Maynard "ducked" the Labour Day rally to address the International Labour Organization in Geneva. It was the first time a Bahamian Labour Minister addressed an ILO plenary session.

However, Mr Maynard returned from the ILO conference one week earlier, sparking speculation that he may have wanted to avoid some sticky questions at the conference about the labour situation in the Bahamas.

The TUC boycotted the Geneva conference because Government failed to comply with the ILO charter by paying the expenses to the conference of two representatives - one from the workers, the other from the employers. The TUC informed the ILO of the situation by telegram.

The ILO was also told how Mr Archer was fired from his post of high school principal by Government for "making political statements."

However, Mr Maynard did not stick around Geneva long enough to give an explanation.

TUC Opposition to Tax

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jun 84 pp 1, 13

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE Trade Union Congress will not stand idly by and allow Government to make a "foolish and arbitrary move" by docking real property taxes from the salaries of civil servants to recover \$50 million in arrears, TUC and Bahamas Public Services Union President Arlington Miller warned Friday.

Addressing hundreds of workers at the annual Labour Day rally at Christie Park before boarding a plane for Freeport to speak to workers there, Mr Miller declared that if workers are in arrears on their

property taxes, there is a "proper and sensible method" to use to get the arrears.

Mr Miller also suggested that Government representatives should sit down with the BPOSU and work out a way that is reasonable. He urged the setting up of a reasonable time-frame to collect outstanding real property taxes at a rate that will not put too much strain on the already-strained pockets of the workers.

Mr Miller's address followed speeches by several other union leaders who participated in one

of two Labour Day marches that saw workers divided for the second straight year on their annual holiday.

The workers, representing seven TUC member unions, started their march at 9 am from Windsor Park north on East Street to Bay Street, west on Bay Street to Blue Hill Road, south along Blue Hill Road to Wulff Road and Poinciana Drive, west along Poinciana Drive to Nassau Street and north along Nassau Street to Christie Park.

The turn-out of the workers,

marching under the banners of their respective unions, was less than last year, when the Bahamas Hotel and Catering Workers Union marched separately as it did again yesterday.

Setting forth the unions' views and opinions on conditions affecting the lives of all workers, Mr Miller also touched on the drug and crime problems, which are destroying the nation.

His warning to Government not to deduct real property taxes follows a circular sent to the various Government Ministries and Corporations informing public servants of Government's plan.

"Recently Government made an announcement that it was going to dock real property taxes from the salaries of public workers for arrears," Mr Miller told the workers. "They claim that over \$50 million is outstanding. We warn Government not to make such a foolish and arbitrary move."

"It is not the workers' fault that massive inefficiency and mismanagement have brought about such a situation. Surely an intelligently run agency would not tolerate such gross incompetence and neglect," he added.

"We will not stand by idle and allow Government to dock payment from public workers," the TUC and BPSU Leader declared.

"If workers are in arrears, we believe there is a proper and sensible method to use to obtain monies in arrears," Mr Miller said. "Public servants' salaries are peanuts now. Look like some people don't want them to have that. We cannot allow that."

"We suggest that we sit down and work out a way that is reasonable. We suggest that a reasonable time-frame is set up for such collection and we suggest that workers pay at a rate that will not put too much strain on their already-strained pockets," Mr Miller said.

"When you are powerful, you should be reasonable and when you make mistakes, the workers should not be made to suffer unjustly," the union leader added.

Turning to the conditions

affecting the workers, Mr Miller noted that since last year, the TUC has witnessed the closure of a number of businesses in New Providence, Grand Bahama and other Family Islands, which cripple workers and weaken unions.

Calling for economic diversification, Mr Miller said it appears that Government does not have the capacity to provide the legislative foundation to redirect the nation to a new economic frontier as it has made constant promises but has taken no real aggressive action.

He noted that the past president of the Chamber of Commerce recently begged unions to keep industrial peace and become partners with business. He agreed on one point only and that was that trade unions must get involved in business ownership.

"We must begin to create employment opportunity for ourselves, as trade unions we must work to establish all of the essential services, such as banking facilities, mortgaging facilities and venture capital facilities for ourselves," Mr Miller said.

He said that the trade union movement has the numerical capacity to become economically self sufficient, has the potential to fund any long-term economic programme and has in its ranks enough skilled personnel to provide quality service on a competitive basis equal to any private concern locally or regionally.

He pointed out that a number of unions have seen fit to introduce their own pension-saving plan for their respective workers, which makes it possible for members to get shelters and soft loans from their own unions.

"Behold a new day is dawning for trade unions. We are on the right track at last," he said. "The time will come when we will have a union bank for workers in this country. The time will come when we will have our own mortgaging corporation for workers. The time will come when we will have our own insurance company."

He said that the union movement will seek to be owners and not partners and

will be the controllers and not just followers.

He called upon fellow union leaders to rededicate themselves to the goals in front and not to depend on anyone to help them.

"It is our sacred duty to mobilise all workers in this nation. It is our sacred duty to implement bold economic programmes that will utilize the productive powers of our workers. It is our sacred duty to create a climate of peace, dignity and future security for our people," he said.

Mr Miller also told workers that this year is crucial in the life of the trade union movement.

"We watch as the reputation of our country is blackened in international quarters as a drug country. We see these cherished working man's ideals dashed to pieces by drugs influence of easy monies and we see countless families, old and young, rich and poor, devastated by this evil influence," Mr Miller said.

"I believe it is true to say that never before in the history of our country has there been a bad influence which causes so much pain, suffering, broken hopes, shattered dreams and even death," he added.

He said that nation's workers must be concerned about it as working men and women are shattered by this evil, families are broken beyond repair, children are lost forever by addiction and abuse and the future for many grows dim daily.

He noted that the white collar workers can afford treatment for their habits but the blue collar workers are fired from jobs and have nowhere to turn.

"These workers drift deeper and deeper into a life of drugs and crime," Mr Miller said. "Much of the crime we hear about is done against middle and lower income workers."

Mr Miller said that the present generation flirting with drugs will cause the loss of 75% of the productive capacity of its generation and the labour force in the coming decade, if this trend is not brought to a halt.

"The loss of such a huge proportion of our young and middle-to-settled workers will effect great economic damage on the nation's economic, social and political life.

Archer Call for Unity

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jun 84 pp 1, 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

TRADE Union Congress Secretary-General Leonard Archer said Friday at a Labour Day rally at Christie Park that unless something is done to revitalize the tourism industry in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the second city is likely to become a ghost town.

Mr Archer also hoped that this year's Labour Day will be the last time the Hotel Workers Union, whose members are being displaced from Government-owned hotels because of closures, will march by itself, because Government is not doing "one damn thing" to help that union.

Mr Archer, also President of the Caribbean Congress of Labour and a former Teachers Union chief, called on the workers to unite against Government, which is their common enemy as it happens to be their employer.

Suggesting that equal concern be shown to the workers who are being displaced in the tourism industry, Mr Archer said that just this year alone some 500 or 600 workers have effectively lost their jobs.

"Unless something is done to revitalize the industry in Freeport, a second city is likely to become a ghost town," said Mr Archer, who was fired from the teaching profession in July, 1983, by Government while he was still president of the Bahamas Union of Teachers.

"I am not aware of any statement of concern by the Minister (of Tourism, Perry Christie) or his Government or any action by the Minister and his Government on behalf of those laid-off workers, who as a result of being unemployed, cannot now even trumpet the empty slogan: It's better in the Bahamas," Mr Archer declared.

Mr Archer said that it ap-

pears that when Government runs out of ideas, it resorts to slogans and catch-phrases, and if it is true, the Government has been bereft of any ideas over the many years.

"You know it is interesting that the very union that represents the workers in the hotel industry is not with us today," Mr Archer said. "They have decided to have their own Labour Day affair in another place."

"I certainly hope that this is the last year that this happens in our country because, let's face it, the Government isn't doing one damn thing to help the workers in that union," Mr Archer said.

"Those workers are being displaced from Government-owned hotels and they can't even get their severance pay," he added.

"Therefore, we the workers must unite against the common enemy and the common enemy in this particular instance happens to be our employer, and the employer in this instance happens to be the Government," he said.

"It must be evident to all that the Government has no answer to the current economic problems," he said.

Mr Archer said that in just a few days, the number of potential workers in this country will be increased by some 5,000 when the schools go through their annual exercises of passing out their 12th graders.

Asking what these young people are going to do to support themselves in a dignified and productive manner, Mr Archer said: "Given the present state of the economy the answer seems to be that they will not be able to do so."

"It is also apparent that the Government has no idea either

of what they will do," he said. "This being the case, I am recommending to the Government that it immediately set up a task force to make recommendations for the improvement of our economy and the speedy elimination of unemployment in the society."

Mr Archer said that the Deputy Prime Minister in his budget debate made a frightening slip when he said that Government is dedicated to the task of ridding this country of "employment."

"Now, you know sometimes you say things that you don't really mean but really they are true," Mr Archer said. "The fact is whether the Government is dedicated or not, the fact that its policies are dedicated to ridding this country of employment, not unemployment, their acts alone, the things they are doing, are ensuring that the numbers of young people will not get jobs and people who already had jobs are losing them."

"We must as workers do something about this," he said, and repeated for Government some advice from its leader around 1970.

"I think it is very appropriate for the Government today and it is this: if the Government can't fish, then it should cut bait; if it can't cut bait, then it should get the hell out of the boat," Mr Archer said, quoting the famous ultimatum of Prime Minister Pindling to PLP members 14 years ago.

"We the workers must demand action now because if we have waited too long, we might all be destroyed in the economic chaos that looms ahead," Mr Archer said.

Mr Archer told the workers that the TUC is not hard on Government, and all that it does is tell the truth about

Government and they think it is hell.

"I say to you, we will give them hell. They are our servants and they are not giving us good service," Mr Archer said.

Noting that "we have the wealthiest and highest-paid park-keepers in this country," Mr Archer said that he has officially designated Youth Minister Kendal Nottage as "Keeper of the parks. Keeper of the grass," for which we pay him \$60,000-plus a year and allow him to make a hell of a lot more."

"This is what our Government has developed into. Men with no ideas. Men who have been around too long. Men who feel they have a divine right to be where they are. Men who have no regard for the people. Men who do not care about suffering caused by the oppressive problems in this

country," Mr Archer said.

"And if we don't act. If we don't act, we also show that we do not care," Mr Archer said.

He said that a year ago, Government called him a menace to the country and said he had to be removed from his job as he was corrupting the minds of the young people, and was a threat to the good order of this country.

"I had to be retired in the public's interest," Mr Archer said. "Let me say again that if telling the truth is corrupting the minds of the young people, then I am guilty and I am proud to be guilty."

"But there's also one other thing, I say to Pindling and his crew, it is time for you to retire in the public's interest and if you don't retire in the public's interest, then we would have to see to it that we retire you in the public's interest," Mr Archer said.

Hotel Workers' Threat

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jun 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] HOTEL Union President Thomas Bastian warned Government Friday, at a separate Labour Day rally at Jumbey Village, to be prepared for economic collapse if the union does not have a contract with hotels by January 6, 1985.

Declaring that the country's most powerful union is not prepared to take any chances, Mr Bastian told hundreds of cheering union members: "Since the law is what the law is, then we will exercise our right to protect the interests of the workers."

Mr Bastian also said that the decision against the Hotel Union in the Jack Tar case in the Supreme Court by Senior Judge Sir Dennis Malone left the workers in the country in a "crucial" position, which uproots the rights of the workers during negotiations.

"My brothers and sisters, I must warn this country. I must warn you, the workers, that this country is number one in the tourist business in this hemisphere," he said. "The workers in the tourism industry are in the number one industry in this country."

"And the hotels are raking the profits of this country and are not returning back that which is due to the resource of the workers in this land. The Government needs to be aware that we are about to enter negotiations this year and everytime the occupancy falls in the hotels, the hotels just throw

the people off their jobs and the guests get bad service," the union leader declared.

"The people are only working four days on an average over the year," Mr Bastian said. "Well, I must say now to the employers that since they can practise that they only need four days a week work, then the union now will be proposing a four-day week work for the same pay and more and increase employment to help those people who are unemployed."

"And I don't want the Government. I don't want the employers. I don't want the Ministry talk no double talk because the people have got to work too long, too hard under bad conditions and no thanks back for their labour," Mr Bastian said.

"And under all kinds of conditions they expect that the guests and the workers must receive the kind of happiness that they should receive in the workplace," Mr Bastian added.

Mr Bastian then asked union members for their support as the coming negotiations are very crucial.

"It is crucial from this perspective," Mr Bastian declared. "It is crucial from this perspective: that this Mr Malone gave a judgment in the Jack Tar case which now uproots the rights of the workers during negotiations."

"Before negotiations this time, this union has to have its acts together," Mr Bastian declared.

"At midnight on the 6th of January, 1985, if we don't be in a contract, the Government just well prepare. Either the economy collapse or we get a contract because we ain't prepared to take no chance," the Hotel Union boss warned.

"Since the law is what the law is, then we will have to exercise our rights to protect the interests of the workers," Mr Bastian added.

Mr Bastian declined to release the information the union has gathered on the national consolidation of the income of all of the hotels because an official of the hotel group present might say the information was gleaned from "his people."

"But I will keep that for my information personally. But I will release them to some of our ambassadors and let them know what we know, that the country is producing millions of dollars, billions of dollars from the hotels and it is going out of the country night and day and the workers can't take home a good week's pay to sustain themselves during the course of living," Mr Bastian said.

"So I, Thomas Bastian, if the Lord let me live and he keep me strong and mighty. There's some dark days that will be coming or all will be bright," he said. "But I ask you to stand by me, stand by those fellows out there because when we sit down this time, we are going to be a friend in need and we are going to be a friend indeed."

"And if they are prepared to deliver to us what we ask for then we will be friends forever but if they will not be prepared to deliver the goods we ask for, then we will be an enemy for a short while," Mr Bastian said.

"And enemy means good that comes to those who wait and joy will come to all of you when we get through," Mr Bastian added.

Mr Bastian said that hotel workers are the poorest paid people in any country, and hotel workers in the Bahamas' number one industry are the "poorest paid workers in the history of this country."

The Hotel Union members, marching under the banners of their respective properties, staged a separate Labour Day parade from Windsor Park at 10 am along Wulff Road, Collins Avenue, Bay Street, Blue Hill Road and to Jumbey Village.

Hundreds of workers participated in that march which had a large following of rushing spectators beating goat-skin drums, shaking cowbells and blowing whistles.

That parade was led by contestants in the Miss Hotel pageant riding in two jeeps.

CSO: 3298/881

GOVERNMENT DELAYS OK ON FNM MEETING REQUEST

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 May 84 p 1

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement for two months has been trying without success to obtain permission to hold a public meeting at the Eastern Parade Grounds.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs has told the FNM that before they can use the Parade, they must give Minister Kendal Nottage an undertaking in writing that none of the speakers would infringe the rules laid down by the Commission of Inquiry concerning public and political comments. Permission to use public parks must come from the Ministry.

"Mr Nottage has obviously given instructions to his Ministry deliberately to frustrate the FNM in its attempt to hold a meeting at the Parade. We protest this totally unjustifiable harassment of our party and we publicly call on the Minister to desist from his unfair and undemocratic tactics," the FNM said in a brief press statement today. The party also released copies of correspondence with the Ministry.

On March 8, Ministry permanent secretary CAP Smith told FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield by letter that the dates of March 9 and 16 were available for possible use of the Eastern Parade.

However, he wrote that permission would only be granted "subject to the provision that your party...would abide by the injunction laid down by the Royal Commission of Inquiry...and which dealt

with public and political comments on matters being inquired into by the Commission."

Mr Smith wrote that before permission is granted, the FNM "would be obliged to indemnify the Minister and his Ministry against any infringement of the rules" laid down by the Commission concerning public comments.

On April 11, FNM chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield wrote to Mr Smith, asking "under what authority our party is obliged to indemnify the Minister and his Ministry" against the Commission's rules.

Mr Whitfield wrote that he was not aware of any action in damages which is available to the Commission for any infringement of its rules.

"Your Minister for reasons best known to him, may be much too sensitive and appears to be acting capriciously in attempting without proper authority to impose conditions for the use of a public park; and thereby manufacture an excuse for withholding permission to use the park," he wrote. Again, permission was asked to use the Parade.

Mr Smith also replied to a letter written by FNM secretary general on May 2. In his letter of May 4, Mr Smith said that the date May 8 was available for possible use of the Parade.

However, he reiterated that before permission was granted, the FNM would have to guarantee to Mr Nottage in writing that it would not infringe the rules of the Commission concerning public comment.

PINDLING ACCUSES FNM; OPPOSITION RESPONDS IN RELEASE

Charge of 'Sabotage'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 May 84 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister Pindling, in North Eleuthera Friday night, accused the Free National Movement of hiring four American companies to sabotage the progress of the Bahamas. Claiming he has proof of this, the Prime Minister said he will reveal certain documents when "I am ready."

Today the Free National Movement said it will issue a full statement dealing with the Prime Minister's remarks tomorrow. In the meantime they have said: "The Prime Minister is once again trying to fool the Bahamian public by distracting them away from the real issues at hand like drugs and crime."

Addressing a PLP meeting on Friday night at Lower Bogue, Eleuthera, the Prime Minister named four companies, Project Masters, Florida Systems, Video Communications and Justice International, which he claimed were hired by the FNM to "sabotage our progress in our Bahamas."

"Each one of these companies," the Prime Minister told his listeners, "had a special role to play, earmarked and designed in collaboration and cahoots with the FNM, dealing either directly with the leader of the FNM, Kendal Isaacs or publicity director Arthur Foulkes."

Sir Lynden said he has documents to prove that he was

telling the truth, which he would show to anybody "when I am ready."

He said the names, Kendal G L Isaacs and Arthur A Foulkes, are written on the documents, which were drawn up in the U.S. and filed in Washington, DC.

"It has cost this country, you and your tax money and my tax money over \$500,000 to date in paying so far for the hearings of the Royal Commission and they ain't finish yet," Sir Lynden said.

"When all the expenses have come in, I have not got the foggiest idea what the total bill will be. All I know is, it is gonna be worth it to this country to find out how all this foolishness started and who was trying all this monkey business."

"It meant unfortunately that the progress had to stop in certain areas. It meant unfortunately that certain things couldn't get done in certain areas. It meant that some tourists did slow down in coming to the Bahamas. It did mean that," said Sir Lynden.

"But, thank God we caught it before it did go too far and as time goes by the rest of the story will unfold. It is not secret any longer. All will be revealed in due time and in the proper place so that we will all be able to see and arrive at our own separate conclusions as to what, why, how, who, where and when."

Sir Lynden said it is probably fitting that this has taken place at this particular point in our history and that "it's probably a good thing." The Prime Minister believes conscientiously that "all things happen for the better", and that everything will work itself out and be clear to understand.

He said he thought he should answer some of the questions people might have in their minds as far as he could without discussing the proceedings of the Commission.

He said it was for this reason that he went to North Eleuthera. He spoke highly of Eleuthera. Next weekend he will be in his Kemp's Bay constituency.

Sir Lynden said that this "situation" will pass "like a cloud whose waters have emptied and have joined the flow of the ocean and the sky will clear like the one above us tonight

"Even though the new moon has already sunk another one

will rise tomorrow evening and it will be a little larger and a little brighter and that will be the kind of situation on which we will flourish."

He said that by now "we" ought to have sufficient experience and togetherness to shrug off "any old foolish nonsense" that might seek to bother or hinder "us."

Sir Lynden said that the FNM does not "have what it takes" to beat the PLP.

"It takes the votes of the majority of the Bahamian people to do that and that is what they do not have. How I know? If you get the votes, you don't need Justice International or Video Communications. They need to get all those other things to make up for the lack of votes and hope that something would happen to cause a disturbance and they could slip in under the cover of darkness but it ain't gonna happen. It's just not going to happen," he said.

FNM Rejoinder

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 May 84 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement made it clear today that it had no intention of "destabilizing" the PLP Government, but rather intended to remove it by every available legal and constitutional means.

The FNM were replying to statements made by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling over the weekend at a political rally in north Eleuthera when he accused the Opposition of engaging persons in the U.S. to "destabilize his government" and "damage" the Bahamas.

The FNM, in an official release referred to Sir Lynden's statement that "we thought we would have been much further on with our programme...but come September, 1983, something happened...somebody else had put some powerful wheels in motion...in such a way...to stop the forward progress of the Bahamas." He was implying

that the FNM was behind the September 5 NBC allegations linking government officials, including himself, with the drug trade.

The FNM today wanted to know what "forward progress" Sir Lynden was talking about. If he was talking about the drug, crime and unemployment problem, then "he ought to have his head examined," was the FNM's response today.

The FNM explained its relations with three of four United States companies named by Sir Lynden. Said the FNM:

"In North Eleuthera last weekend Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling repeated again his allegation that the Free National Movement had engaged persons in the United States to destabilize his Government and do damage to the country. In March this year Sir Lynden made a similar attack

on the FNM which was at that time billed as a bombshell. It turned out to be nothing more than a very defective firecracker.

"It is pathetic to see the head of the Government running about talking nonsense in an effort to fool the public and take the minds of the people off the serious trouble this country is in because of the corrupt, incompetent and spiteful PLP Government.

"It is all an act of desperation, of course, as the country sinks deeper and deeper into the morass of violent crime, drug abuse and unemployment.

"The Pindling administration is reeling as more eyes are opened and the full extent of PLP betrayal becomes more evident with each passing day. The PLP Government is totally incapable of dealing with the disaster they have created and

they are bankrupt of money, ideas and moral authority. So they fall back on a hate campaign against the Opposition.

"We have said before and we repeat today that the FNM has indeed engaged - and accepted offers of assistance from - persons in the United States for various purposes including public relations, fact-finding and fund-raising. By law these persons must register with the U.S. State Department the same as persons engaged by the PLP Government must do. These records are open to the public so Sir Lynden knows who works for us from time to time just as we know who works for his Government in the United States.

"The FNM is not trying to destabilize the PLP Government. We are trying to get rid of them by every legal and constitutional means at our disposal. This is our duty to do and we will continue to do it until we succeed in removing the festering PLP cancer from the bosom of our nation.

"Sir Lynden said once that he and his Government needed a strong Opposition to keep them on their toes. Well, now it appears that they are incapable of getting on their toes. In Sir Lynden's own words, they are too fat, too rich and too drunk to stand up straight so we conceive it our duty to the nation not to rest until they are flat out on the canvass. And while we are at it, we remind Sir Lynden that this is the same Opposition which he so dictatorially and viciously vowed to destroy by 1987.

"The Prime Minister said at

his North Eleuthera meeting that "...We thought we would have been much further on with our programme...But come September 1983, something happened...Somebody else had put some powerful wheels in motion...in such a way...to stop the forward progress of the Bahamas."

"What forward progress is he talking about?

"An economy based on dwindling tourism returns and an increasing drug trade?

"The destruction of thousands of young Bahamians through the spread of dangerous drugs from Abaco to Inagua?

"The flying of the Colombian flag at Norman's Cay by Nazi dope dealer Carlos (Joe) Lehder and the chasing away of legitimate residents from that island?

"The murderous attacks on pleasure yachts cruising the Bahamas by modern-day pirates and drug smugglers?

"The terrifying increase in rape and the transformation of a once tranquil nation to one of the most criminally violent on the face of the earth?

"Rampant unemployment increasing by leaps and bounds every single year for more than a decade?

"Horrendous waste of countless millions of the people's hard-earned tax dollars through PLP incompetence, corruption and stupidity?

"If all this is what Sir Lynden means by 'forward progress' then he ought to have his head examined. To us and to a growing number of Bahamians it looks more like a conspiracy to destroy the country. If, in the final analysis, the FNM can

take some credit for exposing such a conspiracy, we will do so gladly, proud in the knowledge that we would have done a great service to our country.

"The FNM will not at this time risk too many comments on the Royal Commission of Inquiry but we feel it is our duty to draw public attention to what we consider to be disparaging references by Sir Lynden.

"We do not think that the public inquiry into the nefarious dope trade can be justifiably referred to as 'foolishness' and we do not believe that the Bahamian people regard it as foolishness. We will of course, have a great deal more to say about the Inquiry at the appropriate time.

"Now, with reference to the four companies named by the Prime Minister as having been engaged by the FNM:

"The public relations firm of Project Masters, Miami, has been engaged by the FNM and paid by the FNM for their services. Florida Systems is an affiliate of Project Masters.

"The principals of Justice International, as we have said before, offered their services to us and went ahead to register with the State Department. They have raised no money for us and have provided us with no information and we have paid them nothing.

"Video Communications has not been engaged by any responsible officer of the FNM and we are not aware that any of our consultants in the U.S. have authorized this company to register as our agents. We will await Sir Lynden's "documents" proving the contrary.

BRIEFS

CRIME WATCH GROUPS--CHARLES Carter, MP for Holy Cross, has announced the formation of three new crime watch associations for the protection of the area. These recently-formed associations are centred in Highbury Park, Gleniston Gardens and Nassau Village. The Sea Breeze Crime Watch Association has been a very effective forerunner of community organizations that are designed to help neighbourhoods become crime preventive and to improve security, Mr Carter said. It has also become a useful and effective mechanism for improving community relationships and to instil a "sense of community," among people who live there, Mr Carter said. However, long before the Sea Breeze Crime Watch Association was formed, Blair and Montagu had very active and effective crime watch groups. Mr Carter congratulated those residents who have become active members of the associations. He invited all responsible citizens in the area to join and help create a safer environment. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 May 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/882

NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCE AS EXPORTS TO TRINIDAD FALL

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 May 84 p 2

[Text] Barbados has reported an Bds\$8.9 million unfavourable trade balance with Trinidad and Tobago, its biggest Caribbean market, for last January.

According to figures released by the state-run Export Promotion Corporation (EPC), this represented a worsening of their trade position. The unfavourable balance was \$2.4 million in January last year.

Last January, Barbados sold Trinidad and Tobago \$5.1 million worth of goods (compared with \$7.2 million for the same month last year) while it brought \$14 million worth. This island spent \$9.6 million on Trinidad and Tobago goods in January 1983.

Exports to Jamaica in January this year fetched \$568 423 against \$950 058 for the same month last year. Imports last January were put at \$1.4 million down on the January 1983 figure of \$1.8 million.

Barbados exports to Guyana, this country's main South American market, dropped from \$211 462 in January 1983 to \$189 720 for the same month this year, while imports rose from \$131 090 in January last year to \$549 607 for the same month this year.

Barbados exports to the Lesser Developed Countries (LDCS) of the region during the first month of this year were up mainly in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada. Sales to Antigua and Barbuda moved from \$237 937 in January last year to \$438 230 for January this year and imports from \$53 778 in January 1983 to \$69 593 in January this year.

Exports to Dominica in January this year fetched \$222 126 compared with \$191 846 for the same month last year, while imports stood at \$126 460 last January against \$46 491 in January 1983.

Exports to Grenada rose from \$370 430 in January 1983 to \$466 426 while imports from Grenada rose from \$16 517 to \$73 686.

Barbados exported less to Belize, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Exports to non-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries--the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and others--

increased by \$18.2 million from \$18.9 million in January last year to \$37.1 million for the same month this year. Imports went from \$91 million to \$93.8 million.

Exports to the United Kingdom in January this year stood at \$263 568 against \$230 258 in January 1983 while imports stood at \$8.8 million for the same month in 1983-84.

Exports to Canada in January 1984 totalled \$324 636 compared with \$390 445 in January 1983 while imports dropped from \$6.3 million to \$5 million this year.

CSO: 3298/851

WAGE ISSUES, UNION-GOVERNMENT CONTENTION CONTINUE TO SMOLDER

Government Pay Bill

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 3 May 84 p 1

[Text] A bill being introduced in the Barbados House of Assembly next Tuesday does not seek to increase the total emoluments of the Prime Minister and other Ministers.

The bill provides for the following:

--The Prime Minister's annual housing allowance of \$15 600 a year, which is now non-taxable, will be abolished and will be integrated into his basic salary.

His basic taxable salary will, therefore, move to \$85 200 and there will be no increase in his entertainment allowance.

Overall, the total remuneration and allowances of the Prime Minister will not be increased.

--The annual travel allowance of the Deputy Prime Minister will be abolished, and instead, he will be provided with an official car. The travel allowance will be integrated in his new basic salary of \$72 000 a year.

The bill does not attempt to increase the salaries and allowances of the other Government ministers, which now stand at \$70 716 a year. This is made up as follows:

Annual basic salary--\$49 812.

Annual entertainment allowance--\$8 640.

Annual travel allowance--\$12 264.

--The bill also does not attempt to increase the salaries and allowances of the parliamentary secretaries, which now stand at \$45 216 a year. This is made up as follows:

Annual basic salary--\$30 816.

Annual entertainment allowance--\$5 760.

Annual travel allowance--\$ 8 640.

Adams on Union Demands

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 6 May 84 p 40

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams said he would not waste his breath to ask the trade unions in Barbados for a wage freeze to keep people in work.

He was speaking on Friday night during a television and radio interview with Voice of Barbados (VOB), Mr David Ellis, who sought the Prime Minister's reaction to a wage freeze as a means of helping to keep Barbadians in their jobs, and perhaps generate more opportunities for those now on the breadline.

Mr Adams said the trade union movement in Barbados, had long ago rejected low wages as a means of fighting unemployment.

He added that unemployment in communist countries was controlled by paying people low wages. He pointed out that the minimum wage in Cuba was about \$56 a month, which would not be acceptable for a two-days-a-week gardener in Barbados.

"This method of fighting unemployment would not work in Barbados, because the trade unions prefer high wages to employment. They like the people in work to have jobs," Mr Adams said.

The Prime Minister added that the Governor of the Central Bank, Dr Courtney Blackman, had made an important point in explaining to workers that they could price themselves out of a job.

Mr Adams said this point of view must constantly be kept before the unions' representatives.

"I have recently seen some signs--I am not speaking of the public service union--I am speaking of the Barbados Workers' Union and unions in other industries--that a certain realism has entered into wage negotiations in major industries."

BWU Resolutions

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 2

[Paid advertisement "The Union Speaks" by Frank L. Wolcott, general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union: "May Day 1984: Past Achievements, New Challenges"]

[Excerpt] We could not allow this May Day to pass without placing on record our unqualified thanks to all our members and friends who have rallied to our cause throughout the period and have shared with us some of the victories we have achieved. We now place on record our support for the following resolutions to mark this May Day. We call on our colleagues on this 7th May, 1984, by unanimous accord, to give full support to the following Resolutions in the name of all of our members:

Unemployment

(1) Whereas there has been a rapid increase in unemployment and underemployment over the past year

And whereas the Government of Barbados and the private sector have contributed heavily to unemployment through their policy of terminating the services of workers on a wide scale

And whereas the right to a job is a social right which should be enjoyed by all people, and

Recognising that unemployment leads to social discontent and poses a serious threat to the social fabric of our community.

Be it resolved that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 7th May 1984, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall, St. Michael.

Calls upon the Government of Barbados to take direct and immediate steps to encourage and facilitate expansion of employment in the private and public sectors of our national economy.

(2) Housing

Whereas it is becoming extremely difficult for Barbadians of the middle and lower-income levels to purchase their own homes.

And whereas the provision of proper housing and the maintenance of the existing housing stock of the country are matters of grave importance to the country's development and the welfare of the people.

Be it resolved that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 7th May 1984, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall, St. Michael

Calls upon the Government of Barbados to set aside a sizeable portion of its revenue for direct investment in housing in order to provide more houses for middle and lower-income workers in our country.

(3) Job Security and Workers' Rights

Whereas the right to job security is a fundamental right of workers,

And whereas some employers in Barbados are attempting to deprive workers of this right through arbitrary and unjust acts of dismissal.

And whereas such practices are not in the best interest of the industrial relations climate in our country.

Be it resolved that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 7th May 1984, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall, St. Michael.

Reiterates its stand in support of the protection of job security for workers and

Pledges its resistance to all attempts by employers to arbitrarily and unreasonably deprive workers of the right to work.

Unemployment Figures

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] Unemployment in Barbados rose by just over one percent, with the number of people in jobs falling by 1 400 in the first quarter of this year compared with the corresponding period last year, according to official statistics released here.

A Government statement said the latest data showed that the unemployed as a percentage of the labour force for January to March 1984 stood at 15.7 percent as compared with 14.6 percent for 1983.

The number of persons employed, at 95 400 showed a decline from the figure of 96 900 for the equivalent 1983 period. Some 54 300 males, and 41 100 females were employed during the review period.

The number of adults increased from 175 000 in the first quarter of 1983 to 176 500 during 1984. The labour force declined marginally from 113 500 persons for January to March 1983 to 113 200 for the review period, while those adults not included in the labour force increased from 62 000 to 63 300 persons.

As a result of the small drop in the labour force as well as the increase in the number of adults, the adult participation in the labour force dropped marginally from 64.7 percent to 64.1 percent over the review period.

Walcott May Day Address

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 May 84 p 1

[Text] TRADE union leader, Mr. Frank Walcott, has not had a salary increase in four years.

This disclosure was contained in his prepared address for yesterday's May Day celebrations in response to what he labelled the "blandishments" of the Prime Minister.

Noting that the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) had gone on record as saying it could not accept a method where politicians' salaries should be increased at the same rate and through the same measures as those of civil servants, he said:

"... And when that increase is tied, not just to the same level as the top civil servant but, also, to the civil servant at the bottom when across the board

increases are called for, we cannot remark too much on the inequities and injustice of such a method."

Mr. Walcott said he had nothing to hide and that he had had no increase in salary for four years because he understood the problems that workers in Barbados have been experiencing.

He continued: "I can say, and the Prime Minister well knows, that my salary has never been in the league with that of political leaders and the commercial leaders in Bridgetown; so his talk about wage cuts or wage freezes for trade union leaders can only be made in the context of pandering to the feeling of the unknowing in our midst."

Mr. Walcott also said the union found it less than diplomatic for a prime minister to defend the system where he had included housing allowance in his pensionable emoluments and would be moving into a state-owned house for which, no doubt, Parliament will be asked to provide funds for its maintenance.

"... But to try to pass to the public that he has been so noble that he has taken a cut in his salary when, in fact, the house allowance will become part of his pensionable emoluments... and we all know that a prime minister has to work only one day in his office to qualify for a pension! But how magnanimous of the Prime Minister to suggest that he has taken a cut of just over \$300!"

BWU Offer To Talk

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 May 84 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) is ready to sit with political leaders, economic leaders and social leaders to chart a path for national reconstruction.

This was the message yesterday from BWU general secretary, Mr Frank Walcott, in a prepared message to mark May Day celebrations at the union's Solidarity House headquarters.

His call came after he had expressed deep concern about the state of unemployment in the country which he felt was responsible for the recent spate of robberies and the increase in crimes against the person.

He also issued a warning to Government to put the people back to work by injecting more money into the economy "to take up those idle hands."

He charged: "The state cannot renege on its responsibility to create employment by making any spurious claims that the level of wages of workers will affect the level of employment."

According to Mr Walcott, the unemployment level is a cause of concern to the BWU when over 16 000 people are out of work.

He continued: "As trade unionists we do not see these figures as an abstraction; we have to deal with the persons. We know that their incomes are consumption incomes and we know when these incomes are cut off what it means to the workers, who in most cases, have large families to support."

Mr Walcott noted that 17 000 persons out of work must mean a dampening on the economy of the country. In addition to that, the workers who had been placed on week-on, week-off or who had been given two and three-day weeks, had grown in numbers over the past years.

He stressed: "...And these, added to the unemployed, can only mean a spectre of social discontent in the country. I daresay the recent increase in crimes against the person, the recent spate of robberies can be traced to growing unemployment and the resulting social malaise in our country...."

The general secretary also said that as business closed down, as they declared that they could not pay income tax and corporation tax and withheld the BWU and indicated that as workers were laid off and made unemployed, this could have an impact on the country.

"We warned Government that the policy of wage freeze would withdraw funds from the economy that would have a bad effect on the overall performance of the economy. We are now seeing the results of such short-sighted policy and we have not seen the end of it yet."

Mr Walcott warned: "We have to keep our eyes on tourism in which hotels are being sold for not paying their land taxes. We would have to look and see what will happen to this sector as visitor arrivals are shown to be decreasing as well as the length of stay of visitors.

"And we cannot feel that the growing spate of crimes, rapes against visitors and attacks by gun and knife carriers against visitors will help tourism to flourish," he said.

Criticism of Government Priorities

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 May 84 p 2

[Text]

The Central Bank headquarters now under construction and the large number of unemployed people were seen as cause for concern during Monday's May Day Celebrations at Solidarity House, Harmony Hall.

The celebrations organised by the Barbados Workers Union at its new headquarters in Bridgetown were to mark the workers' traditional "day of reflection" and to look ahead.

It was the first time that May Day was being celebrated on a day other than May 1. The Barbados Labour Party Government from this year changed the day to the first Monday in May.

Mr. Walcott told the large crowd which turned up for the celebrations that millions of dollars were being channelled in the wrong direction by Government. He pointed to the new Central Bank building as an example of money going the wrong way.

"I know that \$60 million can do a lot more in housing for this country than it can to put up a monstrosity in Roebuck Street called the Central

Bank in order to satisfy the vanity of people who want to say we have the highest building in the Eastern Caribbean," he said.

"That is the sort of thing that I am opposed to because Barbados does not possess the economy to spend \$60 million on one little building...to rent out the offices to people who, they claim, are looking about for buildings."

The new Central Bank under construction previously came in for criticism from the union and on Sunday Canon Sehon Goodridge also criticised the construction of this building when so many people were in need of housing.

Mr. Walcott told the large crowd at Solidarity House that the BWU was ready to sit down with political, economic and social leaders in this country to chart a path for national reconstruction.

Dealing with the problem of unemployment, the BWU General Secretary said Government should put people back to work by injecting more money into the economy "to take up those idle hands."

He said that with 17 000 people out of work there must be a dampening effect on the economy of the country. Along with the unemployed were the workers who had been placed on a week-on week-off basis or had been put on short weeks, and whose numbers had grown over the years.

He warned that these, added to the unemployed, "can only mean a spectre of social discontent in the country. I daresay the recent increase in crimes against the person, the recent spate of robberies can be traced to the growing unemployment and the resulting social malaise in our country."

CRIME, ARSON WORRY POLICE; PUBLIC ASKED TO HELP

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] Police in Barbados yesterday launched an all out drive to combat a serious upsurge in violent crime which has been sweeping the country since the start of this year.

Senior officers from the Criminal Investigation Department, led by acting Assistant Commissioner Keith Whittaker and his deputy superintendent Sylvester Williams are out in the field trying to close the dragnet on the armed robbers.

The latest incident in the spate of armed robberies occurred on Friday night in St Philip when three armed bandits entered the Seaview home of supermarket proprietor, Mr Eric Drayton and made off with an undisclosed sum of money. They were also reported as having got away with his revolver.

The robbers did not leave before inflicting some injury on their victims. Mr Drayton received a few cuts to his head reported as being not too serious, while his wife suffered a broken arm.

Mr Drayton is the proprietor of Ric's Cash and Carry which is located in St. Philip.

Apart from this development in serious armed crimes there have been a number of other criminal activities which have been of great concern to the police. The theft of jewelry and household items and personal effects as well as the mysterious fires on the East Coast which have left at least seven houses razed to the ground.

Some \$255 000 in jewelry has been reported stolen during the first three months of this year as compared with just over \$142 000 for the corresponding period in 1983.

The Police who have noticed a pattern in most of the crime want property owners to place identifying marks on their items, while insurance companies which have had to pay out big sums in claims are said to be looking at minimum standards of security before offering insurance on household and personal effects.

Mr Whittaker has also called on the public to help curb the incidence of crime by being more cautious and also by helping the police in their investigations.

A number of prime suspects have reportedly been identified in some of the major robberies which have taken place this year, but no one has yet been brought to justice.

The Police are worried about the violent crime especially since the force under Commissioner Orville Durant has been able to bring this type of crime under control in recent years.

CSO: 3298/852

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO UK--Specialist physician, Dr Harold Forde, is to be Barbados' new High Commissioner to London. Authoritative sources have stated that his appointment has been approved by Cabinet and he should take up position in a matter of weeks. He will succeed Mr Algy Symmonds, who has returned to the island as a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Security. Mr Harold Brewster, Minister-Counsellor at the London office has been acting as High Commissioner since Mr Symmond's return home. Dr Forde, a member of the Privy Council and a member of the Lions Club of Barbados, has had an outstanding medical career. His appointment to the post of High Commissioner in London comes at a time when Barbadians resident there have been expecting much from their diplomatic representatives because of the many social economic and racial problems they have been facing. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 May 84 p 1]

TEACHER SALARIES--Government has promised the Barbados Secondary Teacher's Union (BSTU) that it has "under consideration" the union's request for further discussion on salary increases and the question of uncertified sick days. This was stated yesterday by BSTU secretary Mr Patrick Frost. He said that Government's response was in reaction to a BSTU letter seeking further talks on the issue. Mr Frost said that regarding uncertified sick days the BSTU was "adamantly opposed" to any reduction in the present 21 days granted for this. He declared that if Government went ahead with plans to institute any reductions to "between 6 and 21 days," and imposed sanctions on teachers who were appointed before the new Education Act came into force, the BSTU would be advising and fully supporting its members in "their recourse to the law." [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 May 84 p 1]

COTTON SUCCESS--Barbados' 1983-84 cotton season has been "partially successful" and the Ministry of Agriculture is planning to intensify its efforts to revitalise the industry. Chief Agricultural Officer, Dr Lionel Smith, told THE NATION that despite the early problems in the industry, growers had managed to reap some cotton. According to him there were some early problems, including a late planting and a prolonged dry-spell, but they had still managed to produce a reasonable quantity of cotton. "We are planning to make a bigger thing of the next crop and we would like all Barbadians to observe the 'close season' and destroy any residual cotton that has not been reaped and any wild cotton which might be growing around their lands. If they know of wild cotton that is not on their land, then they should inform us. "We had hoped to plant 200 acres in the last crop but ended up with roughly 100. This

year we want to get the seeds planted early, around August 2 or 3 and plant between 200 and 300 acres of Sea Island Cotton," Dr Smith said. He revealed that between 40 000 and 50 000 pounds of cotton, including seeds, had been harvested from about 100 acres. He said it was possible for Barbados to have a viable cotton industry again, since although some of the planters had "a disastrous crop" this year, others had done quite well. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 May 84 p 1]

CHICKEN PRICES--Government has granted an increase in the price of chicken--after months of heated debate on whether the price should be increased, and threats of a possible collapse of the industry. According to the Price Control Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the price increase will take effect from today. The retail price of whole chicken goes from \$2.52 per pound for whole birds, to \$2.80 per pound and \$6.17 per kilogram. Chicken quarters will now be retailed at \$2.56 per pound or \$6.26 per kilogram. The Price Control Division said that the increase came in the wake of representation from local poultry farmers, through their umbrella body, the Barbados Egg and Poultry Producers Association. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 May 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/853

PEMBROKE WEST BY-ELECTION WON BY UBP CANDIDATE

Broadcasting Violation Charge

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 May 84 p 2

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party last night charged that the Political Broadcasting Directions were being violated by Radio VSB.

In a written statement, the PLP complained the radio station was violating the directions by airing political broadcasts as "community service broadcasts."

"The Broadcast Directions of 1980 direct that a broadcast promoting the election of candidates must be defined as a political broadcast, and must be identified as such, along with the political party sponsoring the broadcast," said the PLP.

"This has not been happening at VSB, and we have noted a number of instances where the identification announcement has not appeared on Bermuda Broadcasting television stations as well."

The PLP said it understood that Attorney General Mr. Saul Froomkin had ruled that the broadcasting companies were only obliged to adhere to the Political Broadcasting Directions if they actually

aired political broadcasts.

"In other words — there is no 'half-way house'. Once a station begins to air the broadcasts, it must strictly adhere to the Directions," said the PLP.

Mr. Froomkin last night declined to comment on the statement. Chairman of the Broadcasting Commissioners, Dr. Stanley Ratteray, could not be contacted for comment.

The PLP called on the Broadcasting Commissioners to make a "clear and coherent" statement on the current situation after having taken advice from the Attorney General.

"In the final analysis, the Direction must be revised so that the final say on whether either political party can air paid or unpaid political broadcasts does not rest on the whims of individual station managers," said the PLP.

"Instead, the public's right to unfettered information (must be) firmly protected."

UBP Candidate on Hong Kong

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 15 May 84 p 1

[Text]

Bermuda should actively campaign in Hong Kong to convince businesses there that the Island is an ideal place to relocate.

That was the message from Dr. Clarence Terceira, United Bermuda Party candidate in the Pembroke West by-election to be held on Thursday.

He was speaking at a public meeting held at the Pembroke Community Club, and attended by about 150 parish residents and party faithful.

Dr. Terceira urged Government to seize the opportunity created by the uncertainty surrounding the future of the British Colony

which may come under communist China control in 1997.

He said the recent decision by Hong Kong's largest company, Jardine Matheson, to move its headquarters to Bermuda was an indication that an opportunity to diversify Bermuda's business base existed.

"Let us not just sit back and hope other companies will follow," said Dr. Terceira. "Let's send a team to Hong Kong. Let's market Bermuda in Hong Kong. Let's take advantage of the nervousness of their businesses."

Dr. Terceira said the Island's economic and political stability argued in favour

of the Island as an international centre.

Also speaking at the meeting was Premier the Hon. John Swan. Mr. Swan pledged both his own support, and that of the Government for Dr. Terceira.

He said the by-election on Thursday was an opportunity for Bermudians to reaffirm the mandate given the UBP in the last election.

"The statement on Thursday will be one of whether or not the country is satisfied with the UBP Government — that's the statement we are asking you to make," said Mr. Swan.

Dr. Terceira made just two promises should he be elected to the House of Assembly. He would hold a meeting similar to the one

held last night in exactly 100 days to report the progress he had made.

"The second commitment is that I will live up to my responsibility as the representative of not only you, but all Bermudians," said Dr. Terceira.

"I will attend sessions of the House of Assembly, and not go off to Washington for two years. I am a man of my word."

Dr. Terceira was referring to his opponent in the by-election, Mr. Calvin Smith, who had represented the Progressive Labour Party in Hamilton West, only to later lose his seat.

While an MP, Mr. Smith had gone to the United States to further his education.

PLP Man on Parish Councils

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 84 p 1

[Text]

A system of elected parish councils would help end the resistance Government found when it tried to press on with schemes without consultation, Pembroke West constituents were told last night.

Mr. Calvin Smith, the Progressive Labour Party's candidate in tomorrow's by-election, repeated his call for parish councils at a public meeting.

He said people in Pembroke West and Bermuda as a whole were generally hard-working and independent citizens who did things for themselves.

But, he went on, they felt an increasing frustration when simple jobs such as better road conditions and street lighting were slow in coming or never tackled at all by Government.

"It is my view that the institution of elected parish councils would enable Bermudians to participate fully in the government decision-making process," Mr. Smith said.

That way, the PLP candidate continued, problems such as where to locate the dump or bus garage would get an airing by people who truly represented the views of constituents and Government would have a more accurate picture of people's feelings.

"With a system of elected parish councils, the community can volunteer its point of view," Mr. Smith said, "and Government would not be running into these storms when it tries to operate a programme."

The Opposition Party yesterday also attacked Mr.

Smith's UBP rival in the by-election, Dr. Clarence Terceira, for making a personal attack on Mr. Smith.

The PLP was referring to comments made by Dr. Terceira on Monday night.

"I will attend sessions of the House of Assembly, and not go off to Washington for two years. I am a man of my word," said Dr. Terceira.

He was referring to Mr. Smith who had gone to the United States to further his education while a PLP MP.

The PLP countered: "The inconsistency and contradiction inherent in these attacks are highlighted by the double standards applied when UBP MP Dr. John Stubbs studied overseas for a prolonged period while holding a seat in the House of Assembly."

Poll Results

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The voters of Pembroke West yesterday elected United Bermuda Party candidate Dr. Clarence (Tessie) Terceira to the House of Assembly with a majority of 536.

After a light turnout — just 69 percent — Dr. Terceira polled 840 votes against 324 for his Progressive Labour Party opponent, Mr. Calvin Smith. Eight ballot papers were spoiled.

This represented 71.7 percent in favour of Dr. Terceira against 27.7 for Mr. Smith and UBP representatives were claiming last night that this was a swing in their favour.

The vote was caused by the resignation of former Finance Minister Mr. David Gibbons and maintains the UBP's 26 to 14 majority in the House of Assembly.

A UBP spokesman said that discounting the spoiled ballot papers, the party had polled 67 percent of the vote in a 1980 by-election in Pembroke West, 73 percent in last year's General Election and 73 percent yesterday.

This he compared to 33 percent for the PLP in 1980, and 27 percent last year and yesterday.

Before the polls closed one senior PLP member was in-

dicating that his party would consider 25 percent of the vote to be par for the course, particularly in a constituency where it did not have great machinery and on a day when there was only a light turnout.

After hearing the result a jubilant Dr. Terceira said he was delighted for the UBP and for himself.

"The people of Pembroke West have made a decision that says to the Government: 'Carry on with what you are doing. You are on the right track and you are a good Government.'"

He said of his opponent: "I have known Calvin for a while and I think perhaps he is disappointed in the numbers because he has not made any inroads. He must be disappointed, as must the PLP."

A subdued Mr. Smith commented: "I lost, what else is there to say? It wasn't as good as I had hoped but much more than that I cannot say."

"I congratulate Dr. Terceira, he worked hard and got what he deserved."

Premier, the Hon. John Swan broke off from his celebrations to say he found the result encouraging and personally gratifying. He noted that Mr. Smith "barely managed to achieve the level of rejection" achieved by PLP candidates in the General Election and had not done as well as the candidate in the 1980 by-election.

"I want to thank the people of Pembroke West for their endorsement of the good work of this Government and the reaffirmation of the mandate given us in 1983. Tessie Terceira is someone I look forward to having on my team."

The poll turnout was 1,172.

How they voted

Clarence Terceira.. 840
Calvin Smith.....324
Spoiled..... 8

February 1983 General
Election result: Bill
McPhee (UBP) 1,038;
David Gibbons (UBP)
1,036; Rita Peniston (PLP)
381, Doreen Lightbourne
(PLP) 368.

PLP DRAFT LEGISLATION OFFERS ELECTION LAW CHANGES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Proposals for major changes to Bermuda's election laws were introduced into Parliament yesterday by the Progressive Labour Party.

In an unusual move, the Opposition has drafted its own piece of legislation designed to "give teeth to" the Parliamentary Election Act of 1978.

The Parliamentary Election Amendment (No.2) Bill 1984 was brought into the House of Assembly by Mr. Frederick Wade, Shadow Minister of Labour and Home Affairs.

The Opposition legislation — proposing a lower voting age, longer polling hours and strengthening of registration procedures — was given its first reading by the House of Assembly yesterday and now takes its place on the Parliamentary business paper.

According to Mr. John Gilbert, Clerk to the Legislature, it is rare for the Opposition to take its own bills into Parliament, particularly legislation relating to such technical matters.

Mr. Gilbert said that the last piece of legislation introduced by the PLP concerned amendments to the Public Holidays Act in 1982. Debate on Mr. Wade's proposed changes to the law would not take place until all the Government-initiated

business currently before the House had been completed, Mr. Gilbert said.

It was probable that the Parliamentary Election Amendment (No.2) Act would not be dealt with during the current session of the Parliament.

The Opposition legislation — foreshadowed by Mr. Wade last week — was introduced to the Parliament on the day that the House concluded its discussion of the Government's own proposed amendments to the Parliamentary Election Act.

The major elements of the PLP's draft legislation are proposals to lower the voting age from 21 years to 18 years and procedural and administrative changes to tighten up on compulsory voter registration.

Under Mr. Wade's bill, the Parliamentary Registrar (or any registration officer) would be required to visit the home of every eligible voter who has failed to register and register them in April each year.

The Parliamentary Registrar would also be required not only to 'publish' voters' lists in public places, but also to have them printed — parish by parish — in the newspaper during June each year.

The PLP's draft legislation also would extend the

hours during which voters could cast their ballot from the present provision of 10 am to 7 pm to 8 am to 8 pm.

Mr. Wade told The Royal Gazette yesterday that the Opposition's bill was in the main designed to lower the voting age and to give teeth to the existing legislative provisions for voter registration.

"We believe that the onus should be put on the Parliamentary Register to take every possible step to ensure that every person who is eligible to vote is registered to do so," he said.

"This involves keeping the register of voters constantly under review and up to date and affording the public every opportunity to check to see that they are so registered."

During yesterday's discussion of the Government's proposed amendments to the Parliamentary Election Act, the Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, said that he had made a slight alteration to the clause concerning voter identification cards.

Under the proposed Government legislation, the val-

idity of voter identification cards is to be extended from three to ten years and they are to be available to all eligible voters.

Sir John said it had been proposed that members of the voting public who already possessed any other acceptable identification document would be asked to pay a fee to cover administrative costs if they also wanted a voter identification card.

However, the question of a fee had now been reconsidered and it had been decided that there would be no charge for anyone wishing to obtain a voter identification card.

Sir John also agreed to give consideration to views raised by Opposition members that the proposed fee for election scrutineers, of \$7.50 per meeting, as scheduled in the Parliamentary Election Amendment Rules, should be more substantial.

Mr. Wade said that scrutineers often had to work very hard and for up to 12 hours at a time. "It may well be that a flat-rate payment would be more appropriate," he said.

SENATE WARNED ON IMPACT OF CRIME ON TOURISM

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Text]

Dire warnings were sounded in the Senate yesterday of a bleak future for Bermuda unless the current spate of vicious crimes against tourists is quickly curbed.

Government Senators predicted that if the crime wave continued it would lead to the destruction of a substantial part of the Island's economic foundation.

And an Independent member, Sen. Arnott Jackson, called on the people of Bermuda to accept that Draconian measures were necessary to bring the culprits of these crimes to justice.

Sen. Llewellyn Peniston (UBP) said that crimes against tourists were tantamount to the destruction of a substantial portion of the economic foundation of Bermuda.

"No doubt you will have noted the extremely vicious and cowardly nature of these crimes, purportedly carried out by a marauding gang of youths, which suggests a very bleak future for this community if such crimes, perpetrated by a growing number of our young people, are not readily curbed," Sen. Peniston said.

The Police had appealed for assistance from the public in their quest to stop the growing menace of vicious crimes against tourists, he said.

"I would urge a non-partisan expression of support from Senators in this regard."

Sen. Paul Leseur (UBP) supported the remarks made by his colleague.

"This matter is one of very grave concern for all of us, and it is essential for the community that we remove this cancer which is creeping in," he said.

Other tourist spots had suffered badly because their visitors had been frightened off.

"I hope that everyone will make an effort to report these misdemeanors to the Police."

Sen. Jackson recalled a debate which had taken place six or seven years ago when petty crime was increasing, which

was headlined "kid gloves off".

"It seems urgent to me that the people, with one voice, accept that Draconian measures are necessary to bring the full force of the legal process to bear against the people who commit these crimes against visitors to our community."

The Police were charged with all kinds of mishandling when they dealt with someone in the only manner left to them for dealing with young people who had been deprived of parental guidance and discipline, Sen. Jackson said.

"This situation cannot be stated too harshly," he said. "The community must stand behind its noise with its actions."

U.S. MISSILE LANDING SPARKS QUESTIONS, PLP PROTEST

Issue of Advance Notification

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 May 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The controversial Pershing-2 missile that landed "just south" of Bermuda on Wednesday actually fell 55 miles inside the Island's 200-mile offshore economic zone.

Yesterday Bermuda's Nuclear Awareness Group expressed horror at the news and demanded a full investigation.

And US Consul General Mr. William Dixon Boggs, although stressing that the missile was unarmed and had landed safely in empty seas, said he had since requested that the US state and military authorities inform Bermuda of any future tests likely to affect the Island's waters.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the US Army said the tests would continue, although he could not say whether Bermuda's offshore zone would be affected again.

The issue of whether Bermuda was informed about this week's test firing took a twist yesterday.

Premier the Hon. John Swan said on Thursday and repeated yesterday that Government had not been told about the test.

Harbour Radio has also been reported as saying it had heard no messages that

might have affected mariners in the area.

However, Lt. Col. James Moore of the Eastern Space and Missile Centre in Florida said messages were sent out to airmen and mariners on May 9 warning that the area was designated a test site and was restricted for a period of time.

"One of the addressees of that message was the Naval Air Station in Bermuda," Col. Moore said.

"About two days later we received a reply from them indicating approval."

Captain Donald Gentry, NAS commander in Bermuda, was puzzled by that.

"I don't know of any such message," he told *The Royal Gazette*.

He said he was not informed of all messages and it may have been dealt with by someone else.

"But I will certainly look into it."

The Nuclear Awareness Group called on Government to "fully investigate the incident and other weapons testing which apparently has been carried out in the Bermuda area."

The group wondered whether the US had contravened international law by encroaching on the 200-

mile zone or whether it had any permission to do so.

Premier the Hon. John Swan, who said on Thursday he was sure Bermuda would have been consulted if there was to be any encroachment of territorial waters, commented yesterday that he had no prior knowledge of the firing.

He said the missile was unarmed and he understood it did not land within the 12-mile territorial waters zone.

"However, I have since been made to understand by the US Consul General that that there will be an undertaking to keep us informed should there be any such firings within the 200-mile economic zone," the Premier said.

Mr. Dixon Boggs said this week's launch was an unclassified operation.

"It landed 145 miles south of Bermuda. The tests will continue and we hope in future to give some advance notice," he said.

"There was no notice this time. In fact, there have been several tests and no one has said anything," the Consul General went on.

"It is a big stretch of ocean between Bermuda and the Bahamas and that missile is accurate to within 100

metres, so I don't think we need worry too much about 145 miles.

"There is absolutely no danger whatsoever. It was not armed."

The Nuclear Awareness Group wanted to know, however, what would happen if such a missile malfunctioned, went off course and headed for Bermuda, armed or otherwise.

"Let's face it, we are strategically located with at least three foreign military establishments," a spokesman said.

"It is high time both Government and all Bermudians stop pretending that the arms race and nuclear

weapons won't affect us and start acquainting ourselves with the issues."

Mr. David Harris, of the Redstone Arsenal public relations office in Alabama — the Pershing programme is based at Redstone — said there had been 10 Pershing tests over the past two years.

Neither he nor Col. Moore could say whether any of them had landed in Bermuda waters, although Mr. Harris said the test distances varied and the missile landings were normally "well south of Bermuda."

He said the Pershing-2 missile had had some teething problems but its guidance system was not one of them.

"That is one of the most accurate, systems designed by Man," he said.

Both he and Col. Moore said there were more tests scheduled over the next few months.

"They will be in the same general area," Col. Moore said.

He said it would be safe to assume that Mr. Dixon Boggs' request for prior notice of any firings affecting Bermuda waters would be complied with.

At present, he said, the Eastern Space and Missile Centre had not had any direct contact with the Bermuda Government.

PLP 'Shock'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 May 84 p 5

[Text]

Shadow Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade, yesterday said he was "very shocked" to hear about Thursday's test firing of a US Army Pershing-2 missile.

The missile, which was not carrying a warhead, landed within Bermuda's 200-mile fishing zone, it was learned yesterday, *see Page 1*.

Mr. Wade said he hoped the US Government would in future have the courtesy to inform Premier the Hon. John Swan in advance about such practice firings.

"That way, the next time a missile is fired, he will at least be able to warn us to duck," he said.

"I think it's simply a matter of courtesy that the Premier should know about these things.

"There could easily be a misfiring, or a computer could go wrong, and the results would be disastrous."

Mr. Swan replied that contrary to what was published in the weekend papers, the missile never encroached on Bermuda's territorial waters — which only extended 12 miles from the Island.

But the Premier confirmed that he had spoken to US Consul General Mr. William Dixon Boggs about the matter.

"He has given the undertaking that he will keep me informed about any further activities that might ensue, in the Atlantic," he said.

"I just want to assure the Bermuda public that the Government is aware of what has taken place, and that it will act to ensure that Bermuda's safety is kept intact."

Demand for 'Advance Permission'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 31 May 84 p 4

[Text]

Bermuda's permission should be sought before any nuclear missiles were fired within 200 miles of the Island, Opposition Senator David Allen said.

He claimed Bermuda had unwittingly become part of the nuclear arms race, with the landing of a Pershing-2 missile south of the Island earlier this month.

They had been informed

that the US Consul General had stated that Bermuda would be informed of any such future firing taking place within Bermuda's 200-mile zone, he said, and that the Premier was satisfied with the position.

Sen. Allen said that the Opposition was not satisfied with the Consul General's statement, or with the Premier's satisfaction.

"We believe that Ber-

muda's permission should be sought before any missiles are sent," he said.

He said it was time that the Government made representations through the British Foreign Office that Bermuda was not pleased with the current situation and would like to be asked in advance if it agreed to future missile firings.

PLP Proposals

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

The guidance system of the United States Pershing-2 missile that landed just 145 miles off Bermuda last month malfunctioned just seconds before the dummy warhead hit the Atlantic Ocean, it was learned yesterday.

The news brought a swift response from Leader of the Opposition Mrs. Lois Browne Evans who called on the US to stop test firing the missile in the local area until details of the failure were revealed.

Mrs. Browne Evans also called for an immediate tripartite meeting between herself, Governor Viscount Dunrossil and Premier the Hon. John Swan to discuss the matter.

"I am very distressed that Bermudians and Bermuda could have been used as virtual guinea pigs in an experiment of this kind," said Mrs. Browne Evans.

"I am calling for a meeting between the Governor, the Premier and myself at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss this grave situation and what steps should be taken to avoid a recurrence."

The US Army Missile Command said yesterday that the guidance system of the Pershing-2 missile launched May 16 malfunctioned seconds before the dummy warhead hit its target area.

The Pershing-2 blasted off at 10:31 a.m. EDT from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida and streaked 850 miles to impact in the Atlantic Ocean at a point 55 miles within Bermuda's 200-mile offshore economic zone.

Acting Premier the Hon. Clarence James expressed surprise over yesterday's news, and said that Government would look into the matter. He declined to comment further until more details were available.

Dr. James also declined to comment on the proposed tripartite meeting.

"At this point I can't say where the Opposition will be included in the inquiries, if at all," he said. "It's a delicate constitutional position we are in."

US Consul General Mr. William Dixon Boggs could not be contacted for comment last night.

SWAN ACCUSED OF ACCRUING POWER, DISMANTLING GOVERNMENT

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 20 Apr 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Recently, John David Gibbons resigned as Minister of Finance. John Swan appointed Clarence James as the new Minister of Finance and Charles T. Collis as Minister of Health and Social Services, replacing Dr. James.

This seemingly innocuous shift of ministers has caused much buzzing around the Island. Some view the shift as John Swan's effort to show that the Party is unified and that blacks have real power within the UBP. Others claim that the move is mere window dressing and that Gibbons will still control the country's finances.

Our view is that the foregoing judgements are naive. We believe that the Gibbons move out of Government represents a natural progression, as blacks in the UBP increase their control over Government. However, in the process of acquiring this control, they have had to trade away much of Government's traditional powers.

These are harsh words. Surely, Mr. Swan's power has increased? The British government has permitted more and more control over the police, and one can presume that Mr. Swan has considerable influence concerning appointments to the Judiciary.

Further, given the contests for national songs and the resplendent uniforms and spectacular drill routines of the local army, one can presume that Mr. Swan is about to lead this country out of the control of England and into the control of "God knows what"!

The intriguing question therefore, is why

some people still refer to Mr. Swan as a puppet, despite such obvious increases in power?

In our view, this conclusion is a result of Mr. Swan's apparent unwillingness to exercise power on behalf of the majority of Bermudians. The common view is that Mr. Swan acts this way because he is forced to do so. It seems to occur to very few that Mr. Swan is doing exactly what he wants to do.

GOVERNMENT WITHOUT "CLOUT"

Mr. Swan has seen the dismantling of central government, from an organisation with sufficient clout to manage this Island's economy, to an organisation designed to collect taxes, maintain law and order and diminish the role of welfare services.

The evidence of this dismantling is everywhere. It can be seen in the reduced role of the Ministry of Finance in the formulation of economic policy; the reduced powers of the Monetary Authority in the formulation of financial policy and the regulation of the country's money supply; the increased interference from the international community in the management of Bermuda's affairs; the refusal to set up information systems, to monitor independently the performance of the Bermuda economy; the continued total dependence on the private sector for economic intelligence.

Many see something sinister in Mr. Gibbons move to head up the Monetary Authority. We see it merely as a logical step in working out a new diminished role for the Monetary Authority, which will leave the private financial

community free of unwanted Government interference.

MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO

This is not to say that Government will have no influence over the banking sector — Government must still licence all banks, determine whether or not a foreign bank may operate locally, and influence the movement of funds in and out of Bermuda.

These are considerable powers in theory. However, without objective economic criteria upon which to base economic policy, Government must depend entirely upon dialogue with the financial community, for its economic intelligence and hence, the formulation of its economic policy. It is this dependence which results in glaring mismanagement of social policy, as evidenced by the continuing housing crises.

If these assumptions are valid, it is easy to appreciate the importance of Gibbons at the head of the Monetary Authority. He is wealthy, well connected in the local and international financial communities and can be trusted by all of these to protect their interests. Gibbons will have no problem communicating with the business community and hence in maintaining the status quo.

We can expect a formalisation of this communication process through the selection of the members of the Economic Advisory Committee, which will also be headed by David Gibbons.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

If the Committee is to be a serious monitoring device, we can expect its membership to be sprinkled liberally with bankers, accountants and lawyers, from the financial community, and one or two Union representatives.

If it is to be merely a debating forum from which to test public opinion on controversial policies, we may see a liberal sprinkling of lab-

our leaders, or even churchmen, and one or two businessmen.

If the Economic Advisory Committee is to be more than an exotic debating forum, it will need a sophisticated information system — a programme with which Bermuda's "enlightened" big businesses have refused to cooperate to date. Thus the important clue as to the real purpose of the Committee will be the role of the Statistical Office.

If Gibbons expects his Advisory Committee to be more than a debating forum, he will need economic intelligence gathered objectively. The chief statistician, a Canadian on loan from Statistics Canada, is an expert on the compilation of National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics in a fully integrated statistical environment. Thus, with Bob Richards gone, and the Monetary Authority in the middle of an extensive re-organisation, the timing could not be better for placing the Department of Statistics in a central role within the governmental information system.

In any event, if it is not planned to integrate the compilation of balance of payments and national accounts statistics, there can be no reason for extending the tenure of the Canadian chief statistician. The Bermudians in the office are more than capable of managing the growth of the department in its present role.

Whatever the outcome of the current Cabinet changes, two events will remain a mystery. Firstly, why did Clarence James, a senior minister, feel he was so much in need of guidance from Mr. Gibbons, in his new role as Minister of Finance?

Secondly, why did Mr. Collis, a junior minister, not express a similar need for guidance from Dr. James, in his new role as Minister of Health and Social Services?

LABOR DISPUTES SETTLED, BUT SOME CONTRACTORS BALK

Telco-BIU Pact

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 May 84 p 1

[Text]

More than 200 unionised workers at the Bermuda Telephone Company last night ratified a new two-year wage agreement following three months of what were described as difficult negotiations.

Agreement on the wage pact was reached by the two negotiating teams yesterday afternoon after two days of intensive talks.

Telephone Company workers met at the Leopards Club last night to ratify the tentative agreement.

"It's an agreement we can live with," said President of the Bermuda Industrial Union, Mr. Ottiwell Simmons MP, last night, confirming that ratification had taken place.

"Both sides sat down at the table with the skills required, and after some difficult areas, we managed to find solutions to the problems.

"The negotiations were tough, almost to the point of gruelling."

Mr. Simmons declined to reveal details of the agreement, but said they were in line with other contracts settled this year.

General Manager of the Telephone Company, Mr. Desmond Walker, last night confirmed that tentative agreement had been reached after two days of talks this week. He too declined to reveal details.

"I am not in a position to say anything at this time," he said.

Last night's ratification of the new Telco contract brings an end to a month-long ban on overtime imposed by unionised staff.

Management including Mr. Walker were forced to work the switchboards at the weekends during the ban to provide uninterrupted telephone service.

It was the third major agreement reached this year by key industries. Earlier in the Spring, garage and construction workers settled after going out on strike.

Construction workers settled for nine percent wage increases for each year of their two-year contract. There was also a 2.5 percent increase in benefits.

Garage workers settled for an eight percent wage increase in the first year, followed by a seven percent wage increase in the second of the two-year agreement. Benefits are to increase by one percent over two years.

The only other major negotiations still outstanding are those for 60-odd unionised staff at the Bermuda Broadcasting Company.

No progress has been reported in those talks, and it is believed that workers were last month demanding a 15.9 percent wage increase in the first year alone.

Employer Exceptions

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 4 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The reluctance of certain construction employers to sign the new agreement, arrived at April 4, 1984, between the Bermuda Industrial Union and the Construction Division of the Employers' Council, may create problems for the Union, the employers and the community as a whole.

The agreement covers standardized wages and fringe benefits for all UNIONISED workers in construction. However, there a number of construction workers who are members of the Union but whose employers will not sign the agreement.

This was explained to Workers Voice by BIU president, Brother Ottiwell Simmons.

He told us that currently Union members are protesting against the use of materials that are supplied by non-unionised firms. SAL is one such firm, which is being protested. So far, said Bro. Ottie, this firm has refused to sign the agreement.

He said that unionised workers are also protesting the fact that some construction contractors have not yet committed themselves to the signing of the agreement. Therefore, the unionised workers are planning to refuse to work for these firms and will protest labour supplied by these firms on sub-contracts, to be used on unionised jobs.

UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS

"The BIU, along with those employers who

are committed to signing the new agreement, have attempted to persuade the uncommitted employers to sign" said Bro. Ottie, "but, so far, these efforts have not elicited a sufficiently positive response."

He said that this reactionary attitude on the part of certain employers could cause "some unnecessary problems". Simply because, he said, these employers want to underpay their employees, while at the same time charging the customers the standard rate for labour. "In other words", he said, "they hope to increase their profits by exploiting the worker and the customer."

Bro. Ottie urged all workers who are not yet union members and who are working for non-unionised firms, to join the BIU, so that they may enjoy the full benefits negotiated in the collective agreement.

We learned that all union members who come under the new agreement have already received retroactive pay, back-dated to March 1, 1984. They will be getting an 18% increase over the two year period, plus improved pensions, vacations, paid sick leave and other benefits.

He said that it is expected that the new collective agreement will be signed next week and that contractors should check with the Employers' Council and the BIU for further details.

CSO: 3298/885

BRIEFS

SWAN ON U.S. TAX--Premier the Hon. John Swan said on Friday he was confident that the US Congress would not make tax changes which could affect business in Bermuda. Speaking at a meeting of Ameco Mutual shareholders at the Southampton Princess, which was attended by 140 delegates flown in from the US, Mr. Swan noted that it was still not clear whether Congress would increase the Federal Excise Tax or take other measures to force "off shore" corporations back "on-shore". "It is still not clear if these proposals will become law. However, I can assure you that the Bermuda Government has been active in making representations to those concerned that these Draconian measures will be counter productive. "I feel confident that we will be able to escape the pressures to reduce national deficits by placing unfair burdens on small and friendly countries such as Bermuda. I feel absolutely sure that an appeal for fair treatment for Bermuda will prevail." He described the members of the Bermuda insurance community as a club which had worked with Government to make sure Bermuda had maintained and increased its reputation. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 May 84 p 3]

RISE IN IMPORTS--Bermuda imported goods valued at more than \$377 million dollars last year--up 7.6 percent on 1982--according to the Customs' Imports and Exports annual report published at the weekend. The report provides a comprehensive account of the Island's trade in goods with the rest of the world during 1983. The United States was the biggest supplier accounting for 56 percent of the total imports followed by the Netherland Antilles (12%), the United Kingdom (8%), Canada (6%) and Japan (5%). The biggest imports, food, drink, and tobacco, were up by 7.25 percent, and grossed \$76.3 million. Other highlights in the report were: fuel up 6 percent (\$53.9 million), and finished manufactures up 7.25 percent (\$46.2 million). The total exports of goods--never a large item in Bermuda's external trade account, according to Government--rose by 31 percent in 1983, grossing \$22.7 million. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 May 84 p 9]

CSO: 3298/885

GUERREIRO, OTHERS OPINE ON DEBT MORATORIUM, RENEGOTIATION

No Moratorium Seen Necessary

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jun 84 p 29

[Text] Yesterday, after a 2-hour meeting at Planalto Palace with Ministers Delfim Netto and Ernane Galvea, Foreign Ministry Saraiva Guerreiro reiterated that Brazil is not considering declaring "even a partial" moratorium and that, in this connection, it will not be influenced by unilateral decisions of other countries who make such a decision. The foreign minister claimed that Brazil is not in such an extreme predicament, also stressing that he had never had any disagreements with the planning minister regarding the issue of Brazil's foreign debt.

At the meeting the main positions to be upheld by Brazil with the other debtor countries were debated. The government's position will consist of an expansion upon the communique issued 2 weeks ago. The foreign minister was of the opinion that the stance is rational and conscious, and should make an impression on the seven developed countries that will be meeting in London.

From the creditor countries, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said that he anticipates a positive reaction and a joint reflection on the problems that will be arriving over the medium and long term. According to the foreign minister, this does not mean that the debtor countries should not foster the readjustment of their economies, as in the case of Brazil, something that might occur regardless of the agreement with the IMF; and he noted that the developed countries and those still developing have their economies inexorably linked.

The foreign minister commented that other Latin American countries might take part in the meeting, and cited as a feature of mutual interest the reduction in interest rates, the opening of markets and the extension of the periods for payment.

The Letter

The heads of government of the seven richest nations in the world are receiving a letter today from the presidents of the Republic of Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia. The letter will be sent by the ambassadors of those

four Latin American countries to the capitals of the industrialized nations. Only one of them will be delivered personally: the one to Margaret Thatcher.

The letter calls attention to the terms of a document that will be annexed: the official note released on 19 May by Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Bogota and Mexico City, explaining the difficulties faced by the Latin American countries in paying their respective foreign debts. According to the Itamaraty spokesman, Minister Bernardo Pericas, the text of the letter may not be disclosed until tomorrow.

The meeting that the Latin American countries will hold to debate their foreign debt problems is to be postponed until the period from 20 to 22 June. Bogota was definitely excluded as the site for the meeting.

Banker Approves Renegotiation Strategy

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jun 84 p 30

[Text] The executive director for the international area of the Itau Bank, Sergio Silva de Freitas, considers the initiative that Brazil and other Latin American countries are carrying out to alert the creditors to the risks entailed by high interest rates to be of major importance. This move by the debtors is important, primarily because it could motivate the various social sectors of the creditor countries and enable Brazil, in the future, to obtain better terms for the payment of the debt.

Freitas remarked: "I am not an apologist for a unilateral solution to the foreign debt problems, mainly because I don't think that this would lead to an effective solution. But we need to assume a political attitude toward the debt." Only with an effort in that direction will it be possible to gain permanent mechanisms for dealing with the debt problem and combating the atmosphere of uncertainty on the international financial market.

According to the director of Itau, any solution for ending the uncertainties must involve the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), but does not depend on that entity alone. Other areas must be motivated, such as the Congress and the public; and, in that sense, the meeting of foreign ministers from Latin American countries could prove very significant.

What Has Changed

The Itau director claims that Itamaraty's entry into the strategy for negotiating the foreign debt should not cause any significant change in the criteria for negotiating that have already been adopted. Freitas commented: "We have been renegotiating for 2 years, and we are not paying anything. Telling the creditors that we cannot pay will be nothing new.

"I think that the renegotiation strategy adopted to date by Brazil is quite suitable and should not be changed. We must continue to expend efforts to adjust the economy, and this is the only thing that the creditors demand.

They are not going to require that we pay now, because they realize that we are not in a position to pay."

According to Freitas, Itamaraty's participation in the negotiations is very important from a political standpoint and will provide the country with better conditions for showing the creditors the degree of sacrifice that it is ready to make. He added: "In this respect, Itamaraty appears to be used mainly as an instrument for attack, to divert attention from the enemy."

'Wounds'

"Not to pay anything for 5 years." That should be Brazil's negotiating position (in the opinion of the vice-chairman of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries [FIESP], Paulo Francini) during the meeting of the four creditor countries in Bogota on 15 June. He claims that this position is the personal idea of the former president of the Central Bank, Paulo Lira, and that it is the most viable one for enabling the country to recover from the "wounds that it has been suffering from in recent years."

According to Paulo Francini, after the proposal has been stated, the country should discuss the interest and the payment of the principal per se. He maintained that, for the government to hold that position, it would have to be backed by full support from the society.

Penna: Exports Determine Repayment

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 May 84 p 24

[Text] Yesterday, in Sao Paulo, the minister of industry and commerce, Camilo Penna, claimed: "Brazil's foreign debt can be paid only with exports of goods and services. The creditor countries are concerned about collecting from us, but are not interested in purchasing."

He claimed that, to avoid a breakdown in relations, it is essential that, at the forthcoming meeting in London, the "seven greats" also be subjected to discipline, with greater austerity and more restrictions in the monetary budgets. According to the minister, those rules should be dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or any other similar international organization, so as not to create unsolvable conditions for the debtor countries.

Exports of manufactures are showing a good performance; however, the funds accrued are insufficient to pay even the service on the Brazilian foreign debt. The minister of industry and commerce gave a reminder that, "The therapy is recessive, and could work for awhile, maybe 1 or 2 years. The inflationary process is being transferred from the internal to the external sector."

Camilo Penna declared that Brazil needs to export larger numbers of ready-made clothing, footwear and aircraft, which have a greater value added. As for the contingencies imposed on Brazilian steel with respect to the United States

market, he said: "We are attempting to gain time in the search for a precarious balance until the elections take place in the U.S."

Interest

According to the vice president of BANESPA [Sao Paulo State Bank], Gilberto Dupas, the capitalization of part or even all of the interest, as has been suggested in some proposals for renegotiating the foreign debt, will not solve the problems of Brazil's accounts. Based on his calculations and projections, that measure would represent only the postponement of the problems, which would return more seriously in the future.

He claims that the only solution is the negotiation (if necessary, the imposition) of a 5-year no-insurance period and the establishment of a fixed interest rate of about 6 percent per year, leaving to the bankers the responsibility for administering "their losses or decline in profitability." With those measures, if one accepts that Brazil's exports increase at the rate of 11 percent per year and imports increase 3 percent, the foreign debt would be cut to \$80 billion by 1989. Accepting the fact that the rates remain in the 12.6 percent bracket and that exports and imports progress in accordance with the foregoing hypothesis, the mere capitalization of the interest would raise the foreign debt to a bracket of \$120 billion, worsening the burden of its service.

Joint Note

Yesterday, at the War College in Rio, the head of the Brazilian Association of Commercial Banks, Celio Borja, commented: "The United States, which has worldwide responsibilities, cannot raise interest rates without considering the effects thereof on the international economy." He supported the note from the governments of Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Colombia against the present international financial system.

However, the former head of the Chamber stressed that a unilateral position would not bring about positive effects even if it were adopted in a bloc. "Every time this position has been assumed, the result has been increased poverty."

The renegotiation of the foreign debt with the international financial system is regarded as essential by the members of the Superior Economic Council of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries. "In fact, the creditors don't have much choice," commented the chairman of the entity, Luis Eulalio de Bueno Vidigal Filho.

The council's proposal is not to make the real transfer of income, but only the difference between the net balance in the trade balance and the services (royalties, for example), excluding the debt service; and what is left over from that balance should be capitalized and paid within 5 years. That method, applied to this year, would transfer \$7 billion instead of \$11 billion, as in the current estimate; and, as Vidigal remarks: "The country would not be sending its domestic revenue abroad."

He gives a reminder that there is already acceptance on the part of the international financial community of the needs for the debtors to pay the interest, adding that the European banks are already counting Brazil as being hurt, "which reinforces tremendously the advantage of those upholding renegotiation."

This position is associated with yet another issue debated by the council yesterday: the partial release from control of imports proposed by the government. According to Vidigal, it is "absolutely risky, not only for industry but also for the trade balance, to waste all the effort expended during the past 3 years to substitute for imports."

In addition, there was a another discussion of the question of reactivating the economy. On this point, the council again concluded that the increase in industrial production which occurred this year was due almost exclusively to exports; because commerce and agriculture did not have the same performance. Vidigal admits, however, that indirect effects of the growth could occur on the domestic market slowly.

Inflation

The chairman of FIESP acknowledges the fact that industry has had a greater effect this month on the 8.9 percent inflation. He recalls that industry had little influence on the inflation index during the past 12 months, while its average prices rose 170 percent, in comparison with 235 percent inflation. In May, however, he admits that the effect increased to 12 percent, as opposed to 7 percent during the previous months. In his opinion, the reasons for this greater effect are: the 30 percent rise in the price of steel plate during April, the disagreements among the metal workers and the rise in the minimum wage.

2909

CSO: 3342/112

ARMS SALES MANUFACTURERS, COSTS, MARKETS REPORTED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Jun 84 p 13

[Text] Sao Paulo--Most of the exports of the Brazilian weapons industry are made for cash, with immediate receipt in dollars. Sales on installments occur only when the purchaser becomes traditional, as in the case of Iraq, which is continuing to purchase light armored vehicles on wheels from ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc], and which recently closed a contract for the purchase of six Astrosunits, multiple rocket launchers manufactured by Avibras.

The Brazilian weaponry products are well priced on the international market, and this year exports of them should amount to about \$800 million. But there are definite orders, with deliveries planned for the next few years, totaling \$2 billion. The prices of the Brazilian weaponry products vary from \$4,000 to \$6,000 (for each bomb or rocket unit), going as high as \$20 million (for an Astrosunit, with options). According to the heads of the sector themselves, the national weapons company has procured an industrial production scale on the basis of foreign sales.

The weapons industry is solving its major problem: the development of new types of technology at its research centers, from which will emerge, in the near future, new products for the national Armed Forces and for export. Its research centers spend over \$150 million per year. The development and production of the first prototype of the Osorio (ENGESA's heavy tank on tracks) alone, for example, is costing \$50 million.

The new Brazilian missile, the Piranha, should be on the market next year. It is the result of technology developed at the Aerospace Technical Center and has been negotiated with D.F. Vasconcelos for industrial production.

Sales of Brazilian weapons now reach 50 countries of South America, Africa and the Middle East. ENGESA has negotiated with nearly all the South American countries with the exception of Argentina, with African countries and, in particular, with those of the Middle East. Negotiations are also under way with China.

EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] is increasing its participation in the EMBRAER Aircraft Corporation, with headquarters in the United States,

which is responsible for most of the company's exports. To date, EMBRAER has had nine patrol Bandeirantes in Chile, nine Xavantes in Paraguay, 11 Xavantes in Argentina, five Bandeirantes for civilian and military transport in Uruguay and eight Tucanos for military training in Honduras.

Avibras has been exporting to the Middle East for over 5 years, also selling to South American countries. D.F. Vasconcelos exports bombs and rockets, primarily to South America and the Middle East. The prices of the weaponry products are:

EMBRAER:

Tucano - a military training and guerrilla combat plane: \$1.2 million. EMBRAER sells the aircraft without equipment. The Tucano can carry 1,500 kilograms of weapons, representing an additional cost of over \$150,000 to the purchaser.

Xingu - a military training plane for executive use as well: \$2.25 million. France purchased 40 units of this aircraft for military training.

AMX - a military combat jet which will be on the market starting in 1987. Current price: \$10.5 million.

Bandeirante - for military transport: \$1.85 million.

Patrol Bandeirante - \$3.8 million. Its special radar alone costs \$700,000.

ENGESA:

Light armored vehicles - Urutu, Cascavel and Jararaca, priced from \$450,000 to \$700,000, depending on the options that the purchaser wants to install in the vehicle, such as visor for night vision, laser equipment, telemeter (distance gage) and the various types of weapons, ranging from machine guns to cannons.

Avibras:

Astros - multiple rocket launcher, with computerized firing guide. Costs \$10 million. Its price could double with the options.

Rockets and bombs - manufactured by Avibras and D.F. Vasconcelos. Each unit costs from \$4,000 to \$5,000. The sales are made in lots, based upon the client's interest.

Bernardini:

Tamoio - medium tank on tracks, costing from \$650,000 to \$800,000, depending on the options.

2909

CSO: 3342/112

NAVAL WAR TRAINING MANEUVERS OFF SOUTHERN COAST DESCRIBED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 84 p 5

[Text] "Enemy forces are attempting to install a nuclear missile base on a Brazilian island." This was the general alert marking the final phase of the naval maneuvers held during the past 2 weeks by the Navy in the southern section of the country. Operation Temperex consisted of intensive training to prepare the fleets for a possible real war, including a squadron made up of 11 ships, two submarines and the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais." A total of 4,400 men were mobilized.

Based on this alert, a veritable war operation was mounted, in which only the firing was simulated. The enemy force, the "White," had departed from Parana-gua, carrying a group of strategic components, and the function of the other force, called the "Black," was to intercept and destroy the carrier vessel, if possible, to destroy the base, as well as everything standing in the way of the mission's success.

The maneuvers of this "electronic war" were closely monitored by the commander in chief of the squadron, Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira, the judge for the exercises. In the end, he explained, "It doesn't matter who wins the battle. The important thing is the observations made, and the failures and successes noted."

Electronics

During the entire operation, the greatest of care was taken with the electronic equipment, because it is through the pickup of those signals that an aircraft, a submarine or even an enemy warship can be detected. As Vice-Adm Luis Leal Ferreira explains, a failure during that phase could prove fatal, and there is a great concern for training the crews in the handling of this sophisticated electronic apparatus:

"Electronics has reached such a high degree of sophistication that it demands that we seamen be virtually electronic technicians, because the importance and value of the equipment on a warship are so great. We may not have all the equipment that we would like to have, but we are in a position to adapt to the most sophisticated equipment within a very short period of time."

However, the maneuvers were not limited merely to the use of electronic equipment. A war operation was mounted, with drills to detect aircraft and submarines, and the transfer of light cargo from one ship to another, with a view toward preparations for the "big war" that was to be waged on the way back. The fleet was divided into the "Black" and "White," two adversaries with well-defined targets.

The Maneuvers

The "White" squadron left Paranagua with three destroyers and one frigate, protecting a carrier vessel which was supposed to be bringing strategic material for the construction of an atomic missile base on a fictitious island indicated only on the officers' maps. The mission of the "Black" was to prevent the shipment from reaching the site. For this purpose, it would have to destroy the carrier ship and, if possible, the base itself. Furthermore, to carry out the mission, the "Black" squadron had permission to destroy any obstacle that might prove disruptive. That fleet was considerably larger. In addition to the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais," it had two frigates, three destroyers, a submarine and an office ship.

Obviously, nothing was destroyed in that operation. What occurred was the detection and simulation of firing. And who won the war? Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira explains:

"The operations are being closely monitored, and the commander in chief is the judge. Hence, it is he who determines the winner. However, it is of no concern to us who will win the battle. We are more concerned about observing the action of the two forces, and whether it was in keeping with the pre-established procedures."

Surprises can occur in such operations, such as that involving the submarine which emerged beside the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais," during a recent drill, just to detect it. In a war, this could have been fatal, because airports are always the main target.

The vice admiral explains: "When this happens, we learn several lessons, and the main one is that we need to train our personnel more. Sometimes a submarine even penetrates our formation, because we lack the ability to detect it; or there is failure on the part of personnel or equipment, or even a cleverness on the part of the submarine commander. In the latter instance, it is to his credit."

The sighting of submarines is a constant concern, owing to the potential threat that they represent. For this purpose, the ships have sophisticated electronic equipment which even detects conversations and other noise aboard. But there is the opposite as well: the submarines are also well equipped, and this increases the importance of the detection and the care not to emit electronic signals that would facilitate identification.

With the discoveries of oil on the ocean platform, there has been an increase in the responsibility of the Navy, which already had protection from Brazil's immense coast. Hence, there has been specific training to protect the oil wells in the event of war.

Acknowledging the fact that the oil-bearing platforms are "an immense resource, particularly during a war," Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira reports that this defense has been assigned to the commanders of the naval districts, but that the squadron cooperates in the exercises that are held. He claims that the platform defense technique is still controversial among the leading navies of the world:

"We are attempting to create our own techniques and procedures for protecting our platform, but this depends greatly on the type of threat against it. In the event that techniques are adopted using frogmen or subversive methods, the patrolling would have to be done by a local surveillance group, using smaller ships; now if it were an attack by submarine, we would have to have an antisubmarine patrol in the region. Therefore, it depends on the kind of threat, and people will sense that only if there is action taken against them. Then they would discern the best way of defending the platform."

This increase in responsibility should also entail further investments to equip the Navy. "It is our intention to have it expanded considerably, based upon our requirements and the length of our coast," explains Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira, who goes on to say:

"However, we realize that this is a time for restraint and limitations. The country is experiencing a difficult phase which is, fortunately, temporary; 3 or 4 years hence, we expect it to be at a normal pace. At the moment, the Navy is suffering from those consequences, and we realize that we have to suffer those consequences."

Even with these problems, two modern corvettes are being built, as well as a school ship and a hospital ship, for the Amazon region. An agreement was recently signed with Germany for the construction of two submarines, one in Brazil and the other in that country, simultaneously. In the opinion of Vice Adm Luis Leal Ferreira, this is very important, because "There can no longer be respectable Armed Forces which are dependent on foreign countries." And he continues:

"Today, any country must build most of its weaponry equipment, because when the time comes that we need it, we cannot remain dependent on supplies from abroad. So, naval construction fits into this context, and our own technology is essential to our being considered Armed Forces deserving of that name."

2909

CSO: 3342/112

CHIEF MINISTER HAILS ISLANDS' MEMBERSHIP IN ECLA

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 28 Apr 84 pp 12, 14

[Address delivered by the Honorable Chief Minister Cyril B. Romney on the occasion of the British Virgin Islands to associate membership in the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America; date and place not specified]

[Text]

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen-

It is an honour for me to address you on the occasion of the accession of the British Virgin Islands to Associate Membership in the prestigious body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America. The BVI presence here today is indicative of our recognition of the importance of regional co-operation for our individual growth, through the pursuit of functional mechanisms for common services, co-operation and some degree of regional integration. At the outset, I would ask you to bear in mind that, aside from the fact that the territory of the British Virgin Islands falls within the geographic scope of the Commission, our goals and aspirations are not unlike those of the majority of Member countries. These are, Mr. Chairman:-

(a) to improve the quality of life for all our citizens through the pursuit of full employment objectives;

(b) to control the development and exploitation of our natural resources for the benefit of the indigenous population;

(c) to provide opportunities for native investment through the encouragement of individual effort and joint ventures between local and foreign investors;

(d) to maintain a stable, peaceful and harmonious society wherein all of the above may be safely and quietly achieved.

In recognition of the importance placed on economic co-operation for development, the British Virgin Islands has made several overtures, largely on our initiative, with a view to entering both regional and international organisations. Last November a request was made through the British Government for Associate Membership in UNESCO. This request, I am happy to say, was successful and my Ministry is currently examining ways and means to make the new relationship an effective one. Closer to home, we

have just been informed that the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States has approved our request for Associate Membership which would entitle us to full participation in the Economic Affairs Committee and to meetings of the Authority of that Body as appropriate. Last February for the first time in the seven years of the existence of the Washington based Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development, a special meeting was convened for the BVI to discuss its country memorandum and development project list with development aid donors. Mr. Chairman, these are just some of our major efforts aimed at stimulating greater involvement in the wider political economy of the region. At this point I must acknowledge with great appreciation, the guidance and assistance in these endeavours received from the UNDP and other agencies both on a formal and an informal basis. I must also express my appreciation to

the Government of the United Kingdom for facilitating the placement of our request on the Agenda of this session of ECLA.

I note that the agenda provides for consideration of the implementation of an international development strategy and I am aware that much discussion has taken place on this vital subject. Nevertheless, I call on fellow delegates, Mr. Chairman, to pay special attention to the unique problems of micro states such as the British Virgin Islands. I am aware of the tendency to consider all Caribbean territories as small, but smallness assumes a new dimension when considered in reference to a territory such as mine, with 12,000 people scattered among 40 islands and cays that together aggregate 59 square miles of land spread over 1000 square miles of ocean, existing within hailing distance of an affluent US territory and visited by some 200,000 predominantly US tourists a year. Such a milieu surely calls for unusual strategies to achieve a balanced economy in which the benefits of dollars spent accrue in fair proportions to the nationals as well as the investors who serve this particularly demanding clientele. Naturally, several spurious indications are in evidence in an economy such as that of the British Virgin Islands, the most bothersome being a relatively high per capita

income estimated to be in excess of \$4000. This figure, while admirable on the one hand, tends, on the other, to obscure factors such as comparatively low levels of education and limited health facilities which are obviously in need of urgent attention. These are matters which I hope that a forum such as ECLA will address in deliberations relating to planning and economic development.

And now to turn briefly to another subject, I feel that the simultaneous tabling of the applications by the BVI and USVI for Associate Membership in ECLA is more than mere co-incidence. I do not wish to pre-empt my fellow Virgin Islander, but I feel compelled, nevertheless, to make mention of the long standing relationship that has for many generations existed between the two territories. Indeed we both agree that the difference between both sets of Virgins is to a large extent superficial, in that about 50% of the native population of the USVI is of BVI extraction. Furthermore, during the inter-war and many of the post-war years, the economy of the BVI depended on the USVI for its very survival and while I am happy to say that the BVI, through thrift and increased external assistance has moved to a great degree of self-sufficiency, I nevertheless recognise the existence of a symbiotic relationship which has

developed between the two territories, especially in the yachting industry, which, incidentally, comprises some 60% of tourism activity in the BVI. A large number of British Virgin Islanders also continue to live and work in the USVI, all facilitated annually by very generous quotas for permanent residence in the US. What I said about the relationship between the BVI and the USVI is also applicable, albeit to a lesser degree, to other Caribbean territories. All in all, therefore, I feel that it is just and proper that the USVI become a meaningful part of those important regional organisations that reflect these relationships, and that membership in the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America would be a fitting way to begin.

Mr. Chairman, in assuming Associate Membership, the BVI pledges its full support to ECLA and will always conduct itself in a manner reflective of this solemn pledge. As Chief Minister of the Territory of the British Virgin Islands, I wish to record my sincere thanks to sponsoring and supporting Members, and I look forward to playing a significant role among this esteemed family of nations.

May I also thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the entire ECLA staff for the part played and the valuable assistance given in this matter.

COMMUNISTS ATTACK POLITICAL PARTIES STATUTE PROPOSAL

PY022351 Moscow Radio Magallanes in Spanish to Chile 0200 GMT 2 Jun 84

[Commentary by Orlando Millas, member of the Chilean Communist Party Committee for Political Affairs]

[Excerpts] We communists believe that the main problem posed by Pinochet's draft bill regarding the statutes of political parties lies in the fact that it is based on the 1980 constitution, which is illegal, fascist and invalid. This constitution does away with the peoples' sovereignty and centers true supreme power in a so-called National Security Council. The fact that a political party is recognized and allowed to operate, in keeping with the so-called constitution, depends on the aforementioned council and other equally illegal bodies. Therefore, this in turn results in so-called political parties which are subject to the fascist regime and which accept being integrated parties within a fascist regime.

The first thing that must be done in Chile for a political party to be legally recognized is to reestablish the people's sovereignty, that is, to do away with all the articles and clauses of the anti-democratic and illegal 1980 constitution.

Pinochet continues to establish silly requirements such as the need to have 150,000 signatures, but this is not important. In the first place, it must be pointed out that those political parties that may be recognized by the aforementioned statutes, provided for by the 1980 constitution, will not have the true rights of a political party and will be liable to be eliminated by the strike of a pen of a fascist authority illegally elected by the so-called constitution.

Chile used to have a democratic law on political parties. The Chilean Communist Party believes that this law should be fully reestablished since it expediently solves the problem of the integration of political parties in the country's legal structure and recognizes their democratic rights.

The Communist Party proposes that, without more complications and in a simple and clear ceremony, the law that was in force until 11 September 1973 be reestablished, as well as the organizations provided for by the aforementioned law--the list of political parties with legal statutes that existed until that date. As a consequence, it proposes procedures for the aforementioned parties to up-date their leaderships and for others that may be newly established to

request their registration. This is all we request since nothing else is necessary for the time being. This is the first step that must be taken. The law for the reestablishment of political parties' rights should not run into any problems when Pinochet falls. In sum, what is really sought is to simply eliminate the illegal activities carried out by the military junta and Pinochet which have tried to degrade the political parties, to make them illegal, and to question, or prosecute them.

During the more than 10 years of his dictatorship, Pinochet has made charges against what he calls gentlemen politicians and with that primitive and fascist demagoguery justifies the idea of a statute for political parties.

But Pinochet alone has unmasked himself by enacting his recent law which prohibits the media from reporting on true events that may affect the peoples' morale with the excuse of safeguarding the private dignity of shameless citizens such as himself.

A democratic regime and a supervision system should exist in order to combat political corruption. But it is silly to start off by placing obstacles before the free and sovereign organization of the citizenry in political parties. We communists are against subjecting the political parties to norms that will limit them in an anti-democratic manner or that support the actions carried out against them by the repressive forces.

CSO: 3348/446

POLL SHOWS BETANCUR'S POPULARITY DECLINING

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 22 May 84 pp 32-35

[Article by Roberto Pombo: "Good, 33.3 Percent; Fair, 46.5 Percent; Poor, 7.7 Percent"]

[Text] Between October 1982 and May 1984, the president's image has faded. On that first date, 83 percent of the Colombians had a favorable impression of Betancur while, by the second date, only 67 percent remained on his side.

The unprecedented popularity that Belisario Betancur reached began when, as president elect, he was always on the go in his Renault 4. He got out to eat potatoes at some stand or be the starter at a classic local bicycle race. The Colombians were used to seeing only seriousness, distance, security measures and absolutely no sense of humor in their rulers. They were pleasantly surprised when they saw that the new president was a real person unlike some of his predecessors.

Betancur's term aroused such expectations that he was already the most popular person in the country before taking office when his government consisted only of his campaign promises.

Houses without a down payment, Colombia's affiliation with the nonaligned countries and the search for peace in Colombia and in Central America supported that popularity. For the first time in many, many years, a president dared present a stand of relative independence from the United States.

First Survey

In October 1982, 2 months after his administration began, more than half the Colombians thought the country "was on the wrong track." A poll taken at that time by the Invamer firm revealed that fact. It also indicated that 83 percent of the people had a favorable impression of President Betancur, 25 percent felt the government would be very good and 58 percent maintained that it would be good. At that time, more than 80 percent of those surveyed revealed they were ready to support the new government of B. B. and 92 percent agreed with an amnesty for the guerrillas, one of the aces the president had up his sleeve.

Rating Belisario Betancur as President

| <u>Sector</u> | <u>Very Good</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Fair</u> | <u>Poor</u> | <u>Very Poor</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Lower stratum | 5.36% | 29.35% | 50.67% | 9.67% | 2.96% |
| Middle stratum | 12.76 | 35.07 | 44.20 | 5.39 | 2.59 |
| Upper stratum | 16.14 | 44.69 | 26.95 | 9.17 | 3.05 |
| Bogota | 6.28 | 35.48 | 47.17 | 6.54 | 4.53 |
| Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla | 9.91 | 33.11 | 46.61 | 8.13 | 2.24 |
| Medium cities | 14.54 | 30.79 | 44.78 | 7.40 | 2.50 |
| Worker | 8.08 | 32.41 | 45.87 | 8.52 | 5.13 |
| Student | 11.39 | 42.25 | 38.69 | 5.58 | 2.10 |
| Housewife | 10.49 | 33.30 | 47.72 | 8.23 | 0.26 |
| Looking for work | 14.28 | 19.97 | 60.21 | 2.66 | 2.88 |
| Retired | 8.31 | 38.88 | 35.19 | 13.05 | 4.57 |
| Disabled | ----- | 33.66 | 66.34 | ----- | ----- |
| Formal sector | 8.24 | 34.32 | 44.67 | 6.62 | 6.16 |
| Informal sector | 8.02 | 30.23 | 47.04 | 11.28 | 3.44 |
| Other | 10.87 | 33.81 | 47.16 | 7.08 | 1.09 |
| Liberal | 3.82 | 27.68 | 55.43 | 7.48 | 5.58 |
| New Liberalism | 10.62 | 34.50 | 43.57 | 8.46 | 2.86 |
| Conservative | 20.29 | 46.74 | 30.62 | 2.36 | ----- |
| National Movement | 17.38 | 82.62 | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| MOIR | ----- | ----- | 100.00 | ----- | ----- |
| Communist | ----- | 42.15 | 15.64 | 22.30 | 19.20 |
| Socialist | ----- | 35.13 | 50.35 | 14.52 | ----- |
| No party | 8.11 | 26.17 | 51.36 | 12.24 | 2.12 |
| Other | ----- | 24.57 | 71.14 | 4.29 | ----- |
| 18 to 24 years | 7.02 | 37.80 | 49.43 | 3.32 | 2.43 |
| 25 to 39 years | 14.24 | 24.94 | 53.10 | 5.92 | 1.79 |
| 40 and over | 7.14 | 38.43 | 37.64 | 12.69 | 4.09 |

After the government was in office for 100 days, it was subjected to its first examination. (No one knows why evaluations are made with such an arbitrary figure as 100 days.) A survey taken then gave Betancur and his team a rating of 3.9 which meant it easily passed the test.

Still Good But Much Less

Little by little, unanimity was being lost. The economic emergency declared in order to reorganize the tax system and the tax administration structure and to expand the tax base created enemies, mainly among the larger taxpayers.

In the surveys taken after 6 months in office, 55 percent of the Colombians felt that President Betancur's work was good so far, about 26 percent

considered it very good and about 26 percent dared call it very poor. However, both the rating of Belisario Betancur's administration as well as the diagnosis of the general situation of the country by those surveyed were infinitely higher than those of the corresponding stage of the Turbay administration.

The amnesty, the formation of the Contadora Group, the financial crisis and the tax reorganization passed. The Peace Commission began to establish contact with the rebel groups. In August 1983, a new poll indicated something unusual: the president's image remained the same but the government's went down. This totally Colombian situation was the result of Betancur's surprising ability to put distance between himself and his administration and the ability of the people to differentiate between two things that are really the same.

Opinion on Belisario Betancur

| <u>Sector</u> | <u>Positive Opinion</u> | <u>Negative Opinion</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lower stratum | 64.17 | 35.83 |
| Middle stratum | 70.79 | 29.21 |
| Upper stratum | 67.49 | 32.51 |
| Bogota | 59.52 | 40.48 |
| Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla | 70.92 | 29.08 |
| Medium cities | 68.15 | 31.85 |
| Worker | 64.55 | 35.45 |
| Student | 76.34 | 23.66 |
| Housewife | 70.80 | 29.20 |
| Looking for work | 50.76 | 49.24 |
| Retired | 60.68 | 39.32 |
| Disabled | 100.00 | ----- |
| Formal sector | 68.38 | 31.62 |
| Informal sector | 59.42 | 40.58 |
| Other | 69.93 | 30.07 |
| Liberal | 60.03 | 39.97 |
| New Liberalism | 58.29 | 41.71 |
| Conservative | 82.67 | 17.33 |
| National Movement | 100.00 | ----- |
| MOIR | 100.00 | ----- |
| Communist | 46.93 | 53.07 |
| Socialist | 58.19 | 41.81 |
| No party | 61.78 | 38.22 |
| Other | 80.46 | 19.54 |
| 18 to 24 years | 63.96 | 36.04 |
| 25 to 39 years | 71.21 | 28.79 |
| 40 and over | 66.70 | 33.30 |

Opinion on Current Government

| <u>Sector</u> | <u>Positive Opinion</u> | <u>Negative Opinion</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lower stratum | 50.56 | 49.44 |
| Middle stratum | 64.32 | 35.68 |
| Upper stratum | 65.83 | 34.17 |
| Bogota | 53.01 | 46.99 |
| Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla | 59.45 | 40.55 |
| Medium cities | 62.33 | 37.67 |
| Worker | 52.99 | 47.01 |
| Student | 74.00 | 26.00 |
| Housewife | 60.83 | 39.17 |
| Looking for work | 45.06 | 54.94 |
| Retired | 60.02 | 39.98 |
| Disabled | 100.00 | ----- |
| Formal sector | 54.59 | 45.41 |
| Informal sector | 51.52 | 48.48 |
| Other | 62.25 | 37.75 |
| Liberal | 46.71 | 53.29 |
| New Liberalism | 64.12 | 35.88 |
| Conservative | 75.83 | 24.17 |
| National Movement | 100.00 | ----- |
| MOIR | ----- | 100.00 |
| Communist | ----- | 100.00 |
| Socialist | 13.95 | 86.05 |
| No party | 54.75 | 45.25 |
| Other | 34.35 | 65.65 |
| 18 to 24 years | 56.46 | 43.54 |
| 25 to 39 years | 64.51 | 35.49 |
| 40 and over | 57.68 | 42.32 |

Government Is Government

This government, like all governments, has merely to govern in order to lose prestige since in any country of the world the administrations of presidents are far from the perfection that the citizens want. When the collective labor agreements were negotiated and wage increases limited to control the rate of inflation, support for the administration decreased at the base. The civil strikes in Narino and Antioquia and the position of the labor organizations last 1 May are an unmistakable symptom.

The administration dropped from the unprecedented popularity with which it started although the ratings in the surveys are still better than those of the previous government. The action of the Contadora Group in Central America was

no longer as clear. There were guerrilla raids in spite of the peace agreement. Also the economic situation of the Colombians contributed to this decline.

A poll taken by the National Consultation Center of the Institute for Liberal Studies indicated that 9.7 percent of the people considers Belisario Betancur very good as president, 33.3 percent says he is good, 46.5 percent (the highest figure) rates him as fair and 7.7 percent says he is poor.

The study indicated that support for the government is lower in the lower stratum than in the middle and lower in the middle than in the upper stratum. As in previous surveys, the image of the president is better than that of his government; 67 percent of the people has a good impression of B. B.

It is interesting to break the survey down by political party. While 42 percent of the communists says that Belisario Betancur is a good president, all the members of the MOIR [Revolutionary Independent Worker Movement] rate him as fair. This would indicate that there is better party discipline when the MOIR members respond to surveys.

Perhaps one of the most obvious symptoms of the recent decline in popularity of our president is that Julio Cesar Turbay, one of the presidents with the lowest prestige in all the country's history, dared challenge Betancur to make a comparison between the condition in which he received the country and the condition it is in now.

7717

CSO: 3348/434

REPORT ON MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS; POLICE STOP NWU

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 4 May 84 p 2

[Text] The National Workers Union (NWU) which planned to celebrate May Day with a rally on the picket line in solidarity with Anchorage Hotel workers had their rally disrupted by the police who informed them that their strike was illegal. This was reported to the NEW CHRONICLE by Rawlins Jemmott, President General of the Union.

As a result of the police intervention, NWU members had to revert to their office where messages of solidarity were read; among them one from Martinique and another from Guyana.

NWU considers the police intervention as interfering in the affairs of the workers. And according to Mr Jemmott the Union has warned the Ministry of Home Affairs its intention to take further action.

Other than the above, NWU General Secretary Josephine Dublin read a solidarity message to workers over DBS radio.

The Dominica Amalgamated Workers Union (DAWU) celebrated May Day with a church service in Castle Bruce. Addresses were delivered by General Secretary Anthony Frederick Joseph and M. Pauligno of Carisform, based in Curacao.

A day's picnic on the Castle Bruce Beach highlighted the day's observances.

The Civil Service Association had no particular activity either except for a solidarity message from General Secretary Arthur Smith read over DBS radio.

Waterfront & Allied Workers Union (WAWU) had no special activity. They are in the process of preparing for their 25th anniversary later this year.

Mrs Alicia Cuffy, General Secretary, however, read a radio message to mark the occasion.

CSO: 3298/835

PRIME MINISTER CHARLES DENIES SEEKING IMF ASSISTANCE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 May 84 p 20

[Text]

ROSEAU, Tues., (Cana):
THE Dominica Government has denied it was seeking further economic assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), contradicting an April 19 statement it issued.

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles made the denial, while responding to opposition charges during debate in parliament on a bill seeking the sum of \$750,450 to cover what she said was the island's increased quota in the IMF.

"There is no doubt that this amount ... is a general review of the quota. When one belongs to an institution, time and time again subscriptions will change," Miss Charles said.

Dominica entered a \$37 million loan agreement with the IMF in 1980 shortly after Miss Charles's Freedom Party assumed power in general elections.

The new administration said then the country was virtually bankrupt, and Miss Charles said on Monday the

IMF credit had permitted her government to carry out the country's business.

Last month's announcement that further IMF assistance was being sought came as a mission from the lending agency ended an assessment of the Dominica economy.

The statement had said that under the proposed standby arrangement, the IMF would provide Dominica with financial assistance

to enable the government to follow its recovery programme in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

Former Finance Minister, opposition MP Michael Douglas, speaking in the debate, had charged that Dominica's increased quota meant that government was seeking more money from the IMF and increasing "the suffering" of Dominicans.

"The stringent regulations laid down by the fund have meant a deadline in the living standard of Dominicans," he told parliament.

"We will continue to oppose dealings with the credit facilities of the IMF."

CSO: 3298/866

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH JAMAICA--Roseau, Mon (Cana)--The Dominica Government said today that it believed its trade problems with Jamaica would be resolved by the third quarter of the year. Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, speaking in Parliament, said that she recently held talks with Jamaican trade officials and Prime Minister Edward Seaga on the problems being experienced by Dominica, particularly those relating to the export of soap to that country. "The matter is being considered, I think it is going to be resolved by the third quarter of the year," she remarked. Dominica's principal soap manufacturers--Dominica Coconut Products Limited--earlier this year laid off 25 percent of its workforce after complaining that stringent licensing arrangements in Jamaica had blocked its exports to Kingston. Jamaica is one of the DCP's main markets. Miss Charles told parliament that the company's sales to Jamaica had been limited to "two small shipments." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 May 84 p 5]

INCREASE IN EXPORTS--Roseau, Dominica, Monday. (CANA)--An 11.6 percent increase in domestic exports in the last quarter of 1983 helped to reduce Dominica's balance of trade deficit to \$47.5 million (E.C) according to official figures released here today. In its annual trade review, the Government Statistical Department said the deficit had dropped from \$62.1 million in 1982 and \$82.3 million in 1981. Bananas, household and toilet soaps as well as galvanised sheets contributed 76.8 percent of the value of the total domestic exports in the last three months of 1983, which was estimated at \$17.6 million compared with \$15.8 million the previous year. Last year's total export earnings were \$72.2 million compared with \$61.5 million in 1982. The report said that the main market market for galvanised sheets shifted from Jamaica (80 percent in 1982) to Trinidad and Tobago, to which 863 percent of the sheets produced were exported between October and December last year. Dominica also recorded a reduced surplus on visible trade of \$1.47 million with the rest of the Caribbean Community (Caricom)--excluding the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (ECS)--at the end of the 1983 fourth quarter compared with a \$3.29 million surplus for the same period in 1982. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 May 84 p 36]

CS0: 3298/835

PREFECT SILBERZAHN ASSESSES ISSUES, PROBLEMS, DEVELOPMENT

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 3 Feb 84 pp 1,4

[Press conference of Prefect Silberzahn, French commissioner for the French Guiana Region, on 2 February 1984, place not specified]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Mr Silberzahn, the prefect of French Guiana, gave a press conference in order to provide a political, economic and social assessment of 1983 in French Guiana from his standpoint as the French Government's representative in the department. He also analyzed development prospects for 1984 in terms of the general situation and general institutional developments, public peace, immigration, infrastructure, and the main sectors of French Guiana's economic activity—space, agriculture, fishing, and forestry.

After having reaffirmed his desire to carry out the mandate entrusted to him 2 years ago and which runs until 1985, the prefect opened the press conference with this optimistic thought:

"1984 should be very promising for French Guiana."

Decentralization

The first section of the press conference dealt in a general fashion with institutions, which meant an assessment with regard to decentralization.

The prefect spoke of decentralization as follows:

"Decentralization has been long completed with respect to the communes. On the other hand, at the departmental and regional levels it is not yet complete. The department has received a new and very important area of

authority, the area of social expenditures, which represents a sizable budget, especially in French Guiana where nearly half of those hospitalized are dependent on government welfare and medical assistance.

Although it is not yet complete, department-level decentralization is at a very advanced stage. The prefecture has been divided up, and offices will be actually redistributed as soon as the new building is finished. (...) In regard to the region, decentralization is a task which is only just beginning. A bill is currently being debated in Parliament concerning transfers of authority. Even in terms of the most optimistic assumptions, the legislation will not enter into force before January 1985. (...) In 1984 the region will have the weighty task of successfully concluding the plan agreement between itself and the national government by May. (...)"

Public Peace

The prefect then gave an assessment of what by convention is called public peace.

"Public peace means in the first instance doing battle via the political process. It should be observed that the last elections went off smoothly. They demonstrate the maturity that French Guiana has attained."

His second segment on this subject had to do with the social sector.

"1983 witnessed serious conflicts, the ones over SFM [expansion unknown] and COLA's, which were problems for the public authorities, for the workers, and for the companies. (...) In regard to inflation, I must point out that according to orders of the prime minister France's commissioner is responsible for getting results in the inflation area. (...) The price index is in fact a matter of serious concern in French Guiana.

In 1983 the price index increase settled at around 11 percent. Therefore I made up my mind to act on this price problem in the next few months in an extremely firm fashion. (...) Lastly, public peace is also the issue of security. The results of the efforts undertaken in 1983 are mixed: increased crime although only a small share is juvenile delinquency, no increase in burglaries, a big increase in thefts of 2-wheeled vehicles, and more cases of crime for the police force dealing with aliens. (...)"

Immigration

The prefect continued his statement with one of the most serious issues in French Guiana at the present time: immigration control.

"We feel that in 1983 we have broadly speaking curbed arrivals of foreigners in Guiana. (...) Thirty measures championed in Paris by our department's parliamentary representatives have made already significant results possible: the establishment of a border post on RN [National Highway] 1 at Saint-Laurent, a gradual sector-by-sector increase in employment checks, our recourse to expulsion in cases of irregular status (...)"

Infrastructure

The fourth section of the press conference had to do with infrastructure in the department. The prefect went over the various issues as follows:

"In regard to the hospital sector, there should be a new hospital on the Madeleine site open by 1986 to make up for the many deficiencies of the St. Denis Hospital Center which is inadequate at the present time (...). In regard to secondary schooling, the curriculum has not been decided on. We have to start up Remire-Montjoly, finish the Kourou high school, and begin separate operations for the Cayenne (Zephir, F. Eboue) and Sinnamary schools.

The person in charge of construction programming in the Education Ministry will be coming right here to French Guiana to study these cases."

The Sectors of Economic Activity

Lastly, the prefect analyzed the various sectors of French Guiana's economic activity, starting with space.

"Arising from space sector activity is the issue of the expansion of the city of Kourou, where the French Guiana Space Center (CSG) is set up. Today Kourou with its 12,000 people is the second biggest city in the department. The Kourou high school isn't finished, and public facilities and systems are presenting problems in the department's budget (...).

For the time being no solution has been brought to bear. What will probably be needed is to come up with a special budget package for the city of Kourou outside the departmental budget."

"Fisheries activity and the fishing fleet which makes up that sector have long been neglected, for the sector was long regarded as being in the hands of foreigners. Fisheries activity must become frenchified; during the 9th Plan period the proportion of our fishing fleet which is French must go up to 50 percent (...)."

"Also a determination must be made each year as to the quantity of shrimp which can be fished (...)."

"The port of Larivot, created in 1983 and ranking fourth among French fishing ports, must become something we can use to make it possible to fish under favorable conditions and to enable us to carry out processing on land in order to add value to a French product."

Regarding agriculture, the prefect added,

"In this area French Guiana must support activities producing in our department. In regard to livestock-raising, the objective of 14,000 head of cattle by the end of 1983 has been attained (...). This year's 2 million cartons of yogurt is also significant progress. In fruit growing, 1984 will see the first sizable quantities of limes being exported (...)."

The final item taken up at the press conference was the matter of forestry.

"Current policy consists of no longer getting in new companies from outside unless they can demonstrate technical and financial capabilities (...). At the present time production is estimated at 100,000 cubic meters, with a distinct trend toward more sawn timber. But we must go beyond adding value to timber only through sawing (...)."

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CSO: 3219/17

FRENCH GUIANA

GEORGES LEMOINE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON DECENTRALIZATION

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 13 Mar 84 p 3

[Interview with Georges Lemoine, French secretary of state responsible for overseas territories, on the occasion of a visit he made to the West Indies, by local elected representatives; date and place not specified: "The Region Is Now An Overseas Territorial Reality"]

[Text] Even if some people seem to forget the fact, France is not just the hundred-odd departments which make up its metropolitan land area. And the decentralization action started by the government with the law of 2 March 1982 does take into account that reality of French geography. All the same, the elected representatives of overseas departments, the first entities to be affected by the reform, are still uneasy regarding implementation of that law. At the same time, the overseas territories are not "standing still." Where do things stand with decentralization, with its being put in place, and with its limits in the DOM [overseas departments]? Isn't the division of authorities liable to run into conflicts of legal authority?

When Mr Georges Lemoine made a visit to the West Indies he had the opportunity to respond to the various questions raised by the local elected representatives as follows.

Decentralization and Its Being Set Up

[Question] The decentralization action started by the government also took the overseas departments into account. Now, nearly 2 years after the law of 2 March 1982: Where do things stand in the overseas departments? What are the obstacles decentralization is running up against? (Are they of a political, or an economic, or a structural nature?) Are all the new institutions in place?

[Answer] Decentralization is implemented in the overseas departments in two ways. In the first place, since the overseas departments are administered in accordance with the common legal code, the decentralization laws automatically apply, particularly those of 2 March 1982 and the ones relating to jurisdictional authorities, the laws of 7 January 1983 and 22 July 1983. Hence, supervisory administration of the territorial entities has disappeared, the departmental executives have been established, etc. In the second place, the specific characteristics of the overseas departments have been taken into account, in particular the fact of overseas regions having single departments.

The most rational solution, that of a single assembly, had to be ruled out, and the government has set about establishing the new regions. After the law of 31 December 1982 dealing with the organization of the regions of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, and Reunion, and the 20 March 1983 regional elections which gave the Left a majority, the overseas regions became full-fledged territorial entities, in the same way as departments and communes, with an assembly elected by direct universal suffrage and a president in charge of the executive. The government also submitted to Parliament a bill relating to the authorities of the new overseas regions, in order to both strengthen decentralization and better delimit the authorities of the region versus those of the department. This bill was passed by the National Assembly on first reading in December 1983, along with a certain number of improvements made by Parliament members. The institutional structure is therefore gradually being built up.

Regarding the obstacles to implementing decentralization in the overseas departments, I would say they are of two kinds. There is political obstruction, which is a product of either a desire to systematically denigrate government action or quite simply a great lack of realism.

Then there are the problems of a technical nature arising from the fact that the balance between scrupulous respect for the constitution, to which the government is devoted, and carrying out flexible and rational solutions in a context which has changed a great deal in 25 years, is a very delicate balance to achieve.

[Question] In comparison with decentralization in Metropolitan France, what are the distinguishing features of the new institutions in the overseas departments? What is decentralization going to change in their everyday activity?

[Answer] The first special aspect that is worth underlining is that decentralization is to some extent being set up faster than in Metropolitan France. So, as I pointed out to you, the regional entity is now an overseas territorial reality.

The election according to proportional representation of the new regional councils has made it possible to revive local representation of the major political currents. Similarly, the establishment at the start of this year of regional consultative committees, which is to say the economic and social committees, and the culture, education, and environment committees, will contribute toward improving conditions for the expression of local desires, and consequently will facilitate the solution of the problems that will be presented to those new regional authorities.

The second special aspect is that the government has to the greatest extent possible devoted itself to giving greater authorities, new authorities or authorities deriving from the central government, to the regions, and this is independent of the authorities resulting from the need to specify the boundaries of respective activities by departments and regions.

So, for example, it will be up to the region to determine an outline of regional development which will specify the general directions of the region's development and will include one portion devoted to coastal development and marine resource development. Among other objectives, that is the purpose of the bill regarding authorities I referred to earlier.

The elected representatives of the overseas departments will therefore be more responsible than they were in the past for choosing the main options affecting local development.

Financial Resources

[Question] What are the financial resources put at the disposal of the new structures? Do they seem sufficient to you?

[Answer] The new financial resources that the overseas regions will have at their disposal are of three kinds. First, in outlining the regional budget the regional councils will be able to vote up to 1 percent supplementary dock dues, which compares with a basic rate varying from 5.5 percent to 12 percent depending on the particular overseas department.

Next, the duties comparable to dock dues levied on rum and spirits will be transferred from the departmental budget to the regional budget, and the latter will be responsible for setting the rates of those duties from now on.

Lastly, a region will get 10 percent of the revenues from the Highway Fund for making non-highway investments of regional concern. All these new financial resources will add up to about 275 million francs for the four overseas departments, which is not a negligible amount. On top of that will be the new funds from the regional FIDOM [Overseas Departments Investment Fund] being created.

I know that some elected representatives feel these measures aren't enough. But as for me, I think that they are a real step forward. One certainly should be aware that one cannot ask for indefinitely increasing financial transfers from the state to the overseas departments and at the same time regret that the economies of the overseas departments are artificially propped up. Everything will depend on what the regions do with these financing resources which, considering the mission of the new regional entities, should be devoted to development.

The Division of Authorities

[Question] Regarding the division of authorities between the state and local governmental entities, which still poses some uncertainties, isn't there liable to be some interference among the different levels of government? Should we expect conflicts of legal authority?

[Answer] I don't think there can be, as you suggest, conflicts of legal authority. It is evident that a certain number of authorities are traditional and fundamental attributes of the state. That is particularly the case for international relations.

That does not preclude the overseas regions from being consulted or informed with respect to circumstances in which the state exercises its authorities, and furthermore this is provided for by the specific legislative texts already in effect or in preparation which affect the overseas regions. In particular I am thinking about the cooperation agreements concluded by France with countries in the areas where the overseas departments are located, and also about use of the economic zone—subjects which concern the overseas regions, and rightly so.

I will add that the government does not oppose the expansion of ties between local governmental entities and international authorities, in particular [European] Community authorities, in the context of information missions, with the understanding that responsibility for the presentation and negotiation of specific issues remains with the state.

France: One and Indivisible

[Question] How is France, one and indivisible, going to be itself again with decentralization being applied equally to the overseas part of the country?

[Answer] France can remain wholly one and indivisible without that meaning that everything is decided by the central government. In its history France has always experienced swings of the pendulum between periods when it had to

rally around a "center"--Paris having the executive power in such circumstances--and periods in which centrifugal forces to the advantage of the "provinces" were dominant.

Our country must adapt to the developments of the time. Frenchmen are mature citizens, and they must now be brought closer to the responsibilities of daily life: today this is being called decentralization. But as of the time it is felt that our long-standing democracy is able, without risking its unity, to bring citizens closer to the responsibilities of the context of their lives, there must also be adjustment to the specific characteristics of their daily environment. For example, history and geography have resulted in the financial resources of Martinique Region--the "dock duties," for example--not being exactly the same as those of Alsace Region. So local institutions must be adapted to those realities.

That does not in any way mean that one and all aren't French and don't see themselves in the principles and institutions of our French Republic.

9631

CSO: 3219/21

FRENCH GUIANA

COMPLAINTS AGAINST U.S., JAPANESE SHRIMP TRAWLERS

Castor Calls For Licensing Fees

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Report on exchange between French Guiana deputy Elie Castor and the French secretary of state in charge of the budget: "Issuance of Fishing Licenses: Mr Elie Castor Calls For The Establishment Of A License Fee"]

[Text] Mr Elie Castor recently explained to the French secretary of state in charge of the budget the problems posed by the great number of foreign trawlers in French Guiana and by free issuance of fishing licenses.

There are in actual fact 90 foreign trawlers in French Guiana, 59 of them U.S. trawlers and 22 Japanese. Mr Castor directed the secretary of state's particular attention to the ridiculously low French Guiana regional budget figure which doesn't even reach 4 million francs.

Mr Castor pointed out that French Guiana's needs are enormous in the areas of medical, sports, educational, and cultural facilities, and that a French Guiana economy is non-existent—that its entire pseudoeconomy is based on importing.

By way of example he emphasized that immediate needs in education (elementary and secondary) amount to 220 million francs, while the government grant is 15 million francs. Under these circumstances, and in the context of the shift of authorities, there will be no possibility for French Guiana Region of meeting needs for those facilities.

Also, since the United States and Japan are the richest countries in the world, it is unthinkable and unacceptable that those rich industrial countries endowed with everything cannot contribute out of their wealth, however modestly, toward our region's economic development, especially since such a step would

not cause the investors to flee who have been plundering French Guiana's resources for 20 years without leaving any favorable impact.

Mr Castor stated that the French Government should not help free-gift hunters and profiteers who are continuing to plunder this land. That is why he asked the secretary to let him know if the latter would oppose French Guiana Region establishing a fee for issuing licenses which up to now had been issued free of charge, and if he intended to support applying to the EEC for such a step aimed at assistance by the rich countries to underdeveloped regions.

In his response the secretary stressed the following points:

In both Metropolitan France and the overseas departments the rules pertaining to the French economic zone and /the regulation of fisheries come under Community jurisdiction/[in boldface].

Under these circumstances permits for fishing in French Guiana waters as well as possible fees relating thereto come under the sole jurisdiction of the Commission of the European Communities.

/Therefore it is not possible for French Guiana Region to establish on its own initiative a fee for issuing fishing licenses/[in boldface] for that would contravene Community law.

Regarding the region's budget, he said it should be noted that the bill establishing the authorities of the overseas regions, which bill is currently under consideration by the Laws Committee of the National Assembly, provides along with the transfer of authorities a substantial resource transfer benefiting new regions.

Thus, in addition to the tax revenues (differential tax on motor vehicles, car registration tax, transfer tax) from which all metropolitan regions benefit, overseas regions are going to benefit from the revenue from supplementary dock dues, the revenue from duties on rum and spirits, and from a portion of the revenue from the special tax on consumption of gasoline, high-grade fuels, and diesel fuel.

Furthermore, French Guiana Region will also benefit from government assistance for activities provided for in the Government-Region Plan. Moreover, during the budget presentation for his ministry before the National Assembly last 17 November, the secretary of state responsible for overseas departments and territories announced that a decree was being prepared for the purpose of establishing a regional section of the Overseas Departments Investment Fund (FIDOM) in addition to the general and departmental sections. The regional section would make it possible to individually tailor the government's budgetary efforts to the benefit of the new overseas regions.

DOM Secretary Cites Economic Advantages

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 24 Feb 84 p 1

[Report on exchange between French Guiana deputy Elie Castor and the secretary of state responsible for overseas departments and territories: "The Economic Impact of Ocean Fishing by the USA and Japan in French Guiana"]

[Text] Mr Elie Castor recently explained to the secretary of state responsible for overseas departments and territories the problems encountered at the regional level in French Guiana regarding ocean fishing by foreign trawlers, which do not contribute toward economic development.

After Mr Castor informed the secretary of state that there are 90 foreign trawlers in French Guiana, 59 of them U.S. trawlers and 22 Japanese, and that fishing licenses are issued free of charge, Mr Castor directed the latter's attention to the following facts: "The total budget figure for French Guiana Region is ridiculously low, since it doesn't even reach 4 million francs. On the other hand, French Guiana's needs in the areas of medical, sports, educational, and cultural facilities are enormous; in addition, a French Guiana economy is non-existent, since everything is based on importing.

By way of example, immediate needs in education (elementary and secondary) amount to 220 million francs, while the government grant is 15 million francs.

Under these circumstances, and in the context of the shift of authorities, there will be no possibility for French Guiana Region of realizing the expenditures for those facilities. Also, since the United States and Japan are the richest countries in the world, it is unthinkable and unacceptable that those rich industrial countries endowed with everything cannot contribute out of their wealth, however modestly, toward our region's economic development, especially since such a step would not cause the investors to flee who have been plundering French Guiana's resources for 20 years without that leaving any favorable impact."

Mr Castor asked the secretary of state what immediate steps he intended to support in order for French Guiana Region to have new revenues in return for its resources being exploited by the foreign countries--the United States and Japan, the richest countries in the world.

In his response the secretary of state stressed the following points:

"The licenses issued by the EEC for access to the French Guiana economic zone to the fishing fleets of third countries are only granted for a year at a time and are accompanied by the obligation for those fleets to have their fishing catch processed in French Guiana. That condition placed, by request of the French Government, on the issuing of those licenses is aimed at supplying appreciable quantities of shrimp to French Guiana industry until such time as that industry can be wholly supplied by French fleets."

"This results in expansion for French Guiana industry and consequently a positive economic impact for the region. The effort the government is engaged in in terms of getting more of a French fishing fleet in service will produce more substantial benefits from ocean resource exploitation for the French Guiana economy."

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CSO: 3219/20

PROPOSALS FOR EDUCATION OF HINTERLAND POPULATION

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 10, 11 Feb 84

[10 Feb 84 p 1]

[Text] Among French Guiana's inhabitants are included population groups which do not share or share very little in French Guiana's common culture. These people, called hinterland people, remain attached to the preservation of unique traditions the sum of which must be regarded as a form of civilization and which represents effective adaptation to the environment they live in.

For a long time we have been hesitant about what attitude to adopt toward these peoples. Did we have to subject them, whether they liked it or not, to our common law? Should we, on the contrary, keep from interfering with them in any way? Nowadays, there is consensual recognition of the advisability of taking certain action, mainly in the areas of education and health.

This examination only considers the education aspect of the issue, and it is aimed at defining the objectives of a suitable education program and presenting proposals for action in the 1984-1988 period.

The Hinterland Population Groups

The "hinterland" people belong to two racial groupings:

- Amerindians

More commonly called "Indians," these people are descended from ancient native tribes. Of the 35 ethnic Amerindian groups inhabiting the country

when the Europeans arrived, only six of them are left: Galibis, Arawaks, and Palikours living in the coastal regions; and Wayanas, Wayapis, and Emerillons living in the great forest, along the Oyapok and Maroni Rivers.

The Indians total about 2,500, and their numbers are rapidly increasing with birth rates in the vicinity of 6 percent.

- "Refugee Blacks"

"Refugee Blacks," who are the descendants of runaway slaves, make up the second racial grouping. Those slaves, who had rebelled and run away at the end of the 19th century, found and perpetuated a way of life in the French Guiana forest comparable to that of their African ancestors.

In this category several ethnic groups can be distinguished: Bonis, Djukas, and Saramacas. They add up to about 4,000, and they live in Saint-Laurent and Moyen-Maroni villages. All of them use the same language, Taki-Taki.

All of these peoples, Amerindians and Refugee Blacks, are characterized in varying degrees by very well-established social organization and by a certain psychological immutability which hinders their integration into the modern world. All of them maintain more or less longstanding and more or less frequent contact with our civilization but without really participating in it and without giving up their traditions. And nothing gives us cause to anticipate that the younger generations will behave differently.

However, they all do long to enjoy certain conveniences which we can offer them: hunting rifles, outboard motors, kitchen implements, radios . . . Medical care is sought after in spite of the continued existence of witch doctors.

All of this has already greatly contributed to upsetting the equilibrium of their traditional economies. The societies can no longer live in a self-sufficient manner and are forced to either trade what they produce or to seek out temporary wage-earning employment.

There lies the justification for educational activity. It is not a matter of a school's trying to cause or influence change but rather of its presenting knowledge new to those peoples which, without breaking down their social structures, will enable them to deal with their new needs.

The Objectives

- At the Pre-Elementary Level

Schooling too early on is not desirable, since their young children are put under the direct supervision of their mothers for a long period of time. The minimum age should be set at 5, at least to begin with.

- At the Elementary School Level

What will be provided is the elements of knowledge in the basic subjects: speaking, reading, and writing French; mathematics; plus motor coordination and attention span development.

All that instruction will be adapted in both content and teaching methods to take into account specific circumstances and needs. Researchers can be brought into this teacher training and adaptation effort.

Lastly, teaching of mother tongues can be anticipated as soon as the necessary means are in place: instructors, manuals, and teaching tools. Elementary schooling will run for 6 years, from age 6 to age 12.

Schools will be established near the children's homes. Boarding will be considered only in very special situations (for example, the case of Crique Abounamy, where the villages are widely spread out and of small size).

- Post-Elementary School

After elementary school all pupils who have the ability and express the desire will have to be provided admission to the ordinary secondary schools, and then the college-prep high schools, in order to fully enjoy the benefits offered by our educational system.

However, it will be necessary to provide for an extension of primary schooling, in the area where pupils live or nearby, in the form of courses aimed at presenting certain technical information and practices. Few young people, in fact, agree to leave their family at age 12, and it is neither necessary nor possible to force them to do so.

The form to be pursued is a part-time extension of schooling from age 12 to age 16 in centers gathering students together or instruction by roving teachers.

(Tomorrow: The 1983-1984 Proposals)

[11 Feb 84 p 1]

[Text] 1983-1984 Proposals

All the Indians and Refugee Blacks in the coastal area either are in or are able to go to school—the commune schools—so we won't be considering them in the report on these proposals, although certain steps could be considered with a view toward providing more suitable education and taking into account their traditional cultures.

On the other hand, in the communes in the interior no preschool is provided (except in Maripasoula), and only 60 percent of the children between 6 and 14 are in school. At present there are 8 schools with a total of 25 classes which accomodate 677 pupils.

Mentioning only what appears to be doable, the following objectives should be set for 1984-1988:

- schooling for children 5 years old, which means about 110 pupils;
- 300-350 new places in school for children 6-12; and,
- the creation of "class-workshops" extending primary education in the following localities: Apatou, Grand Santi, Maripasoula, and Camopi.

The educational resources needed over the 5-year period appear in an appended table. They are not large:

- 25 primary school teachers plus 5 secondary school teachers; and,
- 31 classrooms (including rebuilding of decrepit ones) plus 5 accommodations for teachers.

If care is taken to design a type of building highly suitable to the environment, total investment shouldn't be over 10 million francs.

If possible the creation of a body of counsellors should be added to the above list. If we want to take into account the local languages and cultures, the primary school teachers should definitely be assisted on a part-time basis by counsellors drawn from members of the community. But the framework for carrying out that recruitment has yet to be figured out.

Prior Conditions

All current experience tends to show that standard educational institutional frameworks are not what make schools operate in a satisfactory manner. The only successes that have been recorded must be credited to a few very high-quality primary school teachers who have been able to compensate through their own resources for the inadequacy of institutions.

On the other hand, there have been a large number of failures, due to shortcomings over which we have no control, and they have resulted only in discrediting schooling among the population groups concerned.

Therefore, no longer should decisions be made to start up any classes without favorable operating conditions having been established. Those conditions are the following:

Regarding School Construction:

- Control over the work should be the responsibility of the region or the department, and no longer the responsibility of the commune.
- Efforts must be made to come up with an economical type of construction well suited to the environment.

Regarding Operation and Maintenance:

- In this area as well it is desirable that responsibility be at the regional or departmental level.

Teaching Staffs

Teaching staff assignment should be done with 2- or 3-year contracts. A contract should provide for a preliminary training period and material benefits (grade-related supplementary allowance or extra pay or career benefits).

Certain very isolated employment sites can be reached only after 2, 3, or 4 days of travel. In addition, there are no local supply possibilities. Hence, it is essential that the following services be provided:

- radio-ordered deliveries
- supply service

Sufficient funds will be provided for travel by air and pirogue for teachers, inspectors, and educational advisers.

Setting up schooling for French Guiana's hinterland population is on our current agenda, and many pressures are being exerted for it to be done as soon as possible.

However, nothing should be done without quantitative and qualitative problems being jointly resolved in order to provide favorable operating conditions.

In the pedagogical area, educational objectives and content should not raise major difficulties since officials already have a good amount of experience at their disposal and they are open to any collaboration with competent individuals.

9631

CSO: 3219/18

IMMIGRANT HOUSING PROPOSALS REPORTED

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 25 Apr 84 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Housing Precarious in Guiana: Its Importance and Development"]

[Text] On 14, 15 and 16 March 1984, the Councils for Architecture, Town Planning and the Environment held a colloquium in Paris for the consideration of a development policy in the DOM [Overseas Departments]. In our Tuesday edition the different CAUE [Councils for Architecture, Town Planning and the Environment] of the DOM were described. Today the importance and development of Guiana's precarious housing situation are studied, a report presented by the Guianese delegation which was present at this colloquium.

A form of urbanization developed particularly after gold washing came to a halt in the 1950's with the rural exodus and immigration: spontaneous housing. Actual districts were formed, commonly called de facto cities.

This primitive housing situation is characterized by the following elements: buildings put up using salvaged materials (wood, sheet iron, parpens...), overpopulation, squatter occupation of private and public sites, shanty towns on the outskirts of Cayenne, the development of an illicit market for finding illegal housing ("sleep merchants"), the latter in intolerable health, sanitation and security conditions.

Since 1925, one of the first examples of this spontaneous housing has been the "Chinese Village," located south west of the city of Cayenne on unstable and marshy terrain. This village, originally occupied by Indochinese immigrants who, after an unsuccessful attempt at agriculture towards Tonnegrande, wanted to try fishing activities, corresponded only to the north of the present district which extends west and south beyond the Leblond canal, where an impoverished immigrant creole population is settled today. There are more than 300 houses and a population of more than 1,000 inhabitants.

Another sector where spontaneous housing was developed since the 1950's is located south east of the city of Cayenne; it has given rise to the cities of Mirza, Cesaire, N'Zila, Faubourg l'Abri, Anatole, Brutus, Bonhomme, Eau Lisette. These districts total more than 5,000 inhabitants settled in a chaotic way.

For some years now this process of urbanization has reached sizable proportions: 300 to 400 additional inhabitants per year. This phenomenon corresponds to the arrival of many clandestine immigrants (Haitians, Brazilians, Surinamers, nationals of Guiana) in Guiana, drawn by South America's higher standard of living. They settle on Cayenne Island where the majority of jobs are to be found. If 7,908 aliens are counted in 1967, their number increased to 19,061 in 1982, i.e., 26 percent of the total population; Cayenne Island alone receives 11,200 of them.

One notices the spread of spontaneous housing along the lines of communication (the Montabo road, the Plages road, RN 1, the Baduel road).

The multiplication of this type of housing results from the fact that offers of lodging or land at affordable prices does not keep up with the demand from a constantly growing foreign population. Thus, for Cayenne Island alone the construction of 700 housing units per year would be necessary to absorb this influx of foreign manpower if the growth in immigrant population were reduced to 1,000 persons per year (as against approximately 2,500 currently), which assumes very good control of the immigration phenomenon.

At the moment, the immigrant housing problem is the most serious of all those that have arisen in the matter of housing. Because of this influx of immigrants which is so difficult to control, Guiana from this point of view is actually a disaster area.

To ensure its economic development, Guiana needs this foreign manpower but it attracts more than it needs.

To solve this problem with which Guiana is faced, it is necessary, in the overall political framework of immigration (specific legislation--determination of entry quotas), to find a solution to the problem of the reception of the immigrants whose presence is necessary for the development of the local economy. To do this, it would be desirable to establish the following parameters:

--set up a group of structures and means which allow for the establishment of specific actions in this area (e.g., PACT center, Protection, Amelioration, Conservation, Transformation of Housing).

--define a specific scheme in the area of housing adapted to the conditions of these groups, since the currently existing LTS [State Subsidized Housing] is still financially beyond their reach. It therefore seems desirable to develop state subsidized housing with contributions in kind for immigrants (L.T.S.N.I.), which would be built in the context of an assisted self-construction program, thus making it possible not only to lower the construction costs but also to make these populations more responsible in relation to their housing environment.

The inhabitants would have a guarantee of permanent occupation of the site and use of the housing (on condition that they not sublet). Construction would have a market value for the occupant reckoned by the contribution of

his labor, and the administrative organization must be able to reacquire it in the event of the departure of its occupant. At the conclusion of a period of time to be determined, the family considered as being assimilated could acquire the housing property.

--mobilize specific financial means so as not to reduce LBU (Sole Budget Line) funds; it is essential to request financing from the AFICIL (Interregional Financial Association of One Percent Housing Interprofessional Committees), an organization which distributes on the national level the funds collected by means of the (one percent) salary tax reserved for the financing of immigrant housing. From this perspective, it would be necessary to put to work the CNLT (National Committee for Immigrant Housing) departmental commission which could study and define the multiannual projects in this area, passing them on afterwards to the CNLI (National Commission which would approve them, thus making it possible for the AFICIL to finance them.

--establish a whole complex of parallel and complementary actions:

--creation of transfer zones outside of Cayenne Island so as to relieve the pressure exerted on this area,

--experimental pilot projects on Cayenne Island making it possible to test the LTSNI scheme and to establish the structures necessary for the administration of these rehousing, allotment, and land reserve operations.

The financing of these operations assumes the realization of 10 years of an annual package of Fr 30 million earmarked for immigrant housing.

9824

CSO: 3219/22

EX-PRG MEMBERS ACCUSED OF SABOTAGING INFRASTRUCTURE

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Apr 84 p 6

[Article by Christabel King]

[Text] Grenada's interim leader, Mr Nicholas Braithwaite, has accused former members of Maurice Bishop's revolutionary government of sabotaging the infrastructure of the island to gain political capital in the months leading up to this year's promised elections.

Mr Braithwaite, who is chairman of the interim administration appointed to lead the country to elections, claims that former ministers and party members are organising the disruption of water and electricity supplies.

Over the past few months these have become increasingly erratic, with some areas without power for more than 12 hours a day and without water for several days at a time. One hotel has been without water for weeks.

Mr Braithwaite said part of the problem was broken-down machinery but he believed that former members of Bishop's New Jewel Movement working in the electricity and water services were deliberately aggravating the position.

'Secret Meetings'

During the 4½ years of the American invasion in October, most public service posts were filled by officials loyal to the ruling party. [as published]

Mr Braithwaite says he was certain that former New Jewel members were holding "secret meetings" at which they were planning to create confusion.

"They realise that people will make a comparison between the interim administration and the so-called revolution," he said.

He named three former New Jewel ministers, Mr George Louison, Mr Kendrick Radix and Mr Lionel Ramdanny, who he said "are having what they call meetings."

The island's leaders are obviously concerned that the revolutionary movement is now beginning to be reorganised. A new newspaper, the INDIES TIMES, which is highly critical of the present administration, is now being published.

'Cash From Libya'

Mr Braithwaite is in no doubt that the newspaper is produced by the New Jewel party, who he says now seems to have "limitless sources of funds."

He believed some of the money was coming from Cuba but large amounts were arriving in cash from Libya.

"Radix went to Libya in February and I have no doubt that he arrived back with bundles of cash. And I expect cash from Libya is coming in from a number of sources," he said.

The New Jewel Movement has still not announced whether it will stand in the election, which is expected by the end of the year.

CSO: 3298/836

TRIAL OF AUSTIN, OTHERS POSTPONED; AUSTIN HITS 'INVADERS'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Apr 84 p 5

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S Fri., (AP):

IN HIS FIRST public statements since the US-led intervention last October, Gen. Hudson Austin charged that he was kidnapped, libelled and denied legal counsel by the invaders. The burly general was Commander-in-Chief of the People's Revolutionary Army and head of the military junta ousted by the October 25 invasion.

He spoke calmly on Wednesday as he contended that the charges against him and 19 other defendants here were politically motivated.

Later, Magistrate Lyle St. Paul postponed until June 6 the preliminary inquiry into the charges of murder or conspiracy stemming from the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and seven supporters.

NOT POLITICAL

St. Paul postponed the inquiry after 14 defendants, including Austin, said they were without counsel. He told defendants that the court proceedings were to examine the criminal charges against them, not to make political decisions.

But Austin said the case was a political inquiry and said politics influenced many things.

"Even the great Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem because of the political decision of a Roman emperor," Austin said. Austin said the US and Caribbean forces that invaded kidnapped him and ignored his requests for legal counsel.

Austin was captured six days after the invasion began, during an island-wide search and an apparent attempt

by him to flee Grenada.

He said he wanted to be represented now by British barrister Sir Anthony Gifford, but Grenada authorities have thus far refused him permission to practise on the island. He also complained of a propaganda campaign against him.

"People who don't even know me call me a second Idi Amin, and my picture is stuck up all over St. George's, calling me a madman," he complained.

Selwyn Strachan, former Minister of Mobilisation, charged that the court could not separate the inquiry from the invasion, and said the proceedings were being run by foreign forces. "I am challenging the legality of my arrest by foreign forces," he said.

Strachan said he spoke as a member of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), the only political party in the Eastern Caribbean to have staged a historical revolution.

A split in the leftist party led to the Grenada crisis.

Bernard Coard, the former deputy Prime Minister who apparently engineered the split, did not speak. He and his wife Phyllis were represented by three attorneys.

CSO: 3298/836

GOVERNMENT LOOKS TO PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE NEW JOBS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 30 Apr 84 p 44

[Text] ST GEORGES, Grenada, Sunday. (CANAL)-Grenada's Interim Government is looking towards the local private sector to take advantage of the number of investment opportunities to be made available on the island shortly to help in the creation of more jobs, a senior government official said.

Dr Parrick Emmanuel, the Interim Government's member responsible for education said the administration was in the process of improving utility services particularly in the areas of roads, electricity and water and it was hopeful that the private sector would come forward "to improve its own investment performances."

Addressing the 23rd annual convention of the Grenada Union of Teachers, Emmanuel indicated that the new Grenada Government had already approved a number of proposals by the private sector for in-

vestment projects especially in hotel construction in the southern part of the country and for the setting up of industrial factories in the areas of garments and stationery.

"It is expected urgently that these projects should come on stream in the not too distant future, and that they would lay the basis for a general revitalization of the economy in respect of investments, production, productivity, and income and jobs," he said.

Emmanuel also spoke of the government receiving what he termed a heartening response from donor countries for a number of its economic projects presented for funding particularly the construction of the half-built international airport at Point Salines in the south of the island.

The airport is expected to be completed by October with the United States providing \$19 of the \$24 million needed. The remainder will come from Canada.

Emmanuel, who is senior economic research fellow with the University of the West Indies, stressed that among the other priorities of the five-month-old government is the generation of the much needed employment opportunities to overcome the dislocations resulting from the political upheaval of last October.

Other priorities, he cited were the provision of adequate internal security, the setting up of the machinery for elections to restore constitutional elected government, economic reconstruction, and the securing of international recognition of the country so that its economic and social programmes can be adequately funded.

On the question of recognition of the caretaker government, he

said, it is now clear that the international community is prepared to accept the administration as an independent authority and that several regional and extra-regional countries have been conducting normal relations with Grenada.

"We have been able to develop extensive contacts within the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and with other international bodies such as the Organisation of American States which in particular has been extremely co-operative, as well as several other traditional friends and some other newer friends," Emmanuel said.

BRIEFS

LOSS OF LIBYAN AID--St. Georges, Grenada, Wednesday, (CANA)--Grenada stands to lose \$91 million (U.S.) in aid from Libya following the break in diplomatic relations between the two countries after last October's U.S. lead military intervention, a newspaper here claimed. INDIES TIMES, a publication of the recently launched Maurice Bishop memorial foundation, carried the report in this week's edition. Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon expelled all Libyan and Eastern European diplomats after the invasion which ousted a military council which had taken power in a coup in which Prime Minister Bishop was killed. The paper said that Grenada and Libya had signed agreements covering millions of dollars in aid and investment during a visit to the Arab country in 1982 by Bishop. It said that one of the agreements included the provision of \$13.5 million by Libya to Grenada to be made available between 1983 and March 18, 1984, as an interest-free loan over a nine-year period. These funds, the paper said would have been used to complete construction of the international airport at Point Salines, the provision of a new television station, and as loan funds to the national commercial bank for lending to the private sector for investment projects. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 84 p 34]

CSO: 3298/836

OUTGOING VENEZUELAN ENVOY URGES PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Latin American and Caribbean people should overcome existing cultural and economic barriers and establish closer bonds of friendship, outgoing Venezuelan Ambassador to Guyana, Sadio Garavini has said.

Speaking in an interview with IPS Tuesday, Garavini said the barriers keeping Latin American and Caribbean peoples apart were created by developed countries to safeguard their own economic interests.

Garavini returns to Caracas within a week.

A territorial controversy has cast a cloud over relations between the two South American nations. Venezuela's claim to a huge chunk of Guyana's land, the rich Essequibo county, became a live issue in recent years and has impeded efforts to improve relations between the two states.

Garavini said his efforts to peacefully resolve the Guyana-Venezuela territorial issue were helped by circumstances.

The decision by Venezuela and Guyana to refer the issue to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, has done a lot to reduce tension, he told IPS.

Involvement of the UN Secretary-General, termed a respected third party by Garavini, has changed the whole atmosphere.

The avenue is now open for activities on a government-to-government level, he said.

One such possibility was increased trade between the two Republics. A recent bauxite deal between Venezuela and Guyanese companies should impact favourably on relations, he commented.

He told IPS that greater economic and cultural cooperation was needed at the regional level to promote tighter links between countries of the south.

This was an important first step towards ushering in a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

Garavini believes Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states are becoming increasingly interested in seeking wider markets for their produce. The economic resources and potential within the Community could better serve the people if wider markets are sought, he said.

He is scheduled to take up a position in Caracas as Ambassador-Adviser to the Foreign Minister on Caribbean Affairs.--(IPS)

CSO: 3298/867

TWO BRAZILIAN NAVAL VESSELS SCHEDULE 5-DAY VISIT

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Apr 84 p 11

[Text] The commandant of the two-vessel naval fleet from Brazil which is now on a five-day visit to Guyana has expressed the view that the visit will help to increase the friendship which exists between Guyana and Brazil.

Speaking to newsmen Friday, Captain Carlos Augusto Vasconcellos Saraiva said that the visit of the two vessels, the corvette "Iguatemi" and its smaller sister ship, "Piratini" which arrived Thursday night, is just one of a series of courtesy calls.

Members of the public are being allowed to tour the vessels up to today. They are moored alongside the Guyana National Engineering Corporation wharf on Lombard Street.

The vessels, which are based at Brazil's north-east port of Belem, leave Guyana on Tuesday for Suriname and then on to Cayenne. They are also expected to visit Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Martinique.

During their stay in the country, senior members of the crew will pay courtesy calls on a number of officials including the Mayor of Georgetown, the Commissioner of Police and the Chief-of-Staff of the Disciplined Forces.

They will also go on a number of site-seeing tours and visits around the city and in the rural areas.

This is the third visit to Guyana by Brazilian naval vessels. The others were in 1973 when the "Iguatemi" came into Port Georgetown on a routine visit, and the other was in 1975.

This is the first visit to Guyana for Captain Vasconcellos Saraiva and also for the captain of the "Piratini," Lieutenant Rodrigo Otavio Fernandes Honkis.

According to Captain Vasconcellos Saraiva, the "Iguatemi" has equipment for search and rescue operations and for the transport of a limited amount of cargo.

The captain revealed that the vessel intends to pick up supplies from Cayenne on its way back to Brazil.

The "Iguatemi," he said, is normally used for patrolling a 300-mile stretch of water along Brazil's northern coast, while the "Piratini" is used mainly for river patrols. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/867

TRAWLER ATTACKED; SOME CREWMEN FEARED DEAD

Hijacking at Sea

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 May 84 p 1

[Text] An estimated 50 trawlers sped into Port Georgetown yesterday in protest over the hijacking of a Guyana Seafoods trawler "Miss Lanita" and the shooting of Captain Joe Fernandes and his three-member crew.

Fernandes is now a patient in critical condition at a City hospital. His three colleagues are feared dead.

Reports reaching the Chronicle last night said the hijacking incident was staged early Monday when the "Miss Lanita" was about two miles off shore.

Three pirates using a small fishing boat reportedly boarded the "Miss Lanita" before dawn on Monday, shot the skipper and his crew and then threw them overboard.

Fernandes who was shot in the back managed to stay afloat until he was rescued several hours later by the crew of the tug "Resolve." He was rushed to Georgetown and has since undergone emergency surgery.

Reports late last night said Fernandes has identified two of his attackers; three men were in Police custody; and, the Police were trying to locate two men they believe could help them in their investigations.

The Police believe the men in custody had planned to rendezvous with the bandits sometime today.

Missing and believed dead are Fernandes' brothers Henry and Jerome and Michael Dially.

General Manager of Guyana Seafoods Limited Lloyd Piggot confirmed last night that the company's entire fleet of 88 had left the fishing zone for port as a result of Monday's incident.

Executive Chairman of Guyana Fisheries Limited, Robert Williams, also confirmed that vessels in the GFL fleet were heading for Port Georgetown.

Police believe the pirates planned to kill the crew and assume control of the vessel which they would later sell. The "Miss Lanita," the reports said, had once been stolen but was recovered in Colombia. Yesterday it was found partly submerged. The seacock had been removed.

Up to late yesterday, an estimated 50 trawlers had arrived in Port Georgetown and an estimated 88 others were reported heading for port.

Meanwhile, the "Miss Lanita" which has since been towed into port was last night moored alongside Guyana Seafoods' wharf at McDoom.

The pirates had reportedly removed some of the catch and the radio and navigation equipment from the trawler. And by yesterday afternoon the fish aboard had to be dumped after becoming contaminated.

Defense Force Escorts

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 May 84 pp 1, 5

[Article by Bert Wilkinson]

[Text] Trawlers of the state-owned Guyana Fisheries Limited (GFL) yesterday began returning to fishing grounds after their crews received assurances regarding their safety from management, the Police and the Guyana Defence Force.

They were assured that measures will be implemented to avoid a recurrence of Monday's hijacking of a trawler catch and the shooting of the trawler's four-man crews, three of whom are still missing.

The shrimping fleet of GFL and Georgetown Seafoods returned to Port Georgetown Tuesday in the wake of the Monday night hijacking and shooting incidents to demand assurances concerning safety of crews and vessels.

However, the fleet of Georgetown Seafoods, the country's largest shrimping concern, remained in Port up to last night, the captains and crews refusing to return to sea until "something positive is done."

The Chronicle has been reliably informed that Georgetown Seafoods, whose vessel and crew were victims of the hijack, intends to write the Fisheries Ministry and Police Commissioner, Lloyd Barker about the possible arming of the captains of its vessels.

"Of course, the ramifications of such a measure (the arming of captains) will have to be carefully considered," one government official commented yesterday.

The two major fishing companies, the military and government officials held a number of closed-door meetings yesterday to review the situation which has virtually paralysed a major section of the industry.

GFL says that the return to Port by its vessels was a costly exercise.

"Once you lose one day's catch per trawler it will be costly," a GFL spokesman pointed out.

One of the safety proposals agreed on yesterday was that trawlers leaving Port Georgetown should report to the GDF Maritime Command. It was also agreed that the vessels should endeavour to coordinate their return and inform the GDF which will provide them with "an escort or two."

The captains are also being encouraged to return to Port during daylight hours as far as is practicable.

"We will attempt to arrange for them to communicate with GDF reconnaissance aircraft," Major Rouche Adams reported.

While most of GFL's vessels are expected to sail today, a number of captains interviewed yesterday felt that Monday's hijacking could occur again. They said that the shrimping business is becoming dangerous and recalled an incident last year when another Seafoods skipper was tied up and his catch stolen.

Meanwhile, the Police are still questioning three men held in connection with the hijacking.

Request for Weapons

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 May 84 p 1

[Text] A number of Guyana Fisheries Limited trawlers headed for the deep seas yesterday but all of the Georgetown Seafoods' vessels remained in port as management attempted to find solutions acceptable enough for the captains and crews to the problems raised by Monday's piracy.

Lloyd Piggot, Georgetown Seafoods Managing Director, said yesterday that the captains continue to demand that they be allowed to carry weapons to protect themselves against attacks, similar to Monday's hijacking of a Seafoods trawler's catch and the shooting of its four-man crew. "We are taking all the necessary steps, going through all the motions to find a solution," Piggot told the Chronicle.

He said that the firm was hoping that the authorities would grant the weapons request. But from the way the situation looks "our vessels could be tied up for a long time." Seafoods owns just over 50 percent of Guyana's trawling fleet.

GFL captains agreed to return to sea after a lengthy meeting with management and the military Wednesday, although the crewmen were fearful of a recurrence of another hijacking now that this is the high season for shrimping.

Meanwhile, the Police have seized an outboard engine and a fishing boat suspected of being used in the hijack which occurred two miles offshore.

And hospital sources reported too that Captain Joe Fernandes, the lone survivor of the incident, is improving at a private city hospital.

The other crew members of the "Miss Lanita," believed dead, were still not accounted for up to yesterday.

CSO: 3298/867

SOLIDARITY, PEACE COMMITTEE MAKES PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] A top level government team will be making official visits to some friendly countries in June and this will influence the participation of the executive of the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace in international meetings planned for that period, President of the GCSP, Cde Elvin McDavid told a press conference Thursday.

The press conference, which brought the curtains down on the conference sponsored by the GCSP, said that more than 40 Caribbean, Latin American and other World Peace organisations participated in the meeting which he described as a huge success.

He noted that in 1985 another conference of greater magnitude and participation will be held in Georgetown under the aegis of the GCSP.

The just concluded meeting was convened when the international world is threatened by the aggressive and irresponsible actions of the Reagan Administration which has provoked the most energetic condemnation by international public opinion, Cde McDavid said.

The meeting condemned the deployment of new American missiles in Europe which has heightened the danger of nuclear catastrophe, he added.

Cde McDavid, who is also Chief Political Adviser to the President, said that earlier in the week he had received a note from the American Embassy in Guyana informing him of "Ocean Venture 84," which is an explosive combination of men, war machines, gunboats, helicopters and arms.

The GCSP president said that this exercise "cannot augur well for peace in the Region."

Within the fortnight, the GCSP will circulate to all heads of governments and international and regional organisations, the Georgetown appeal which contends: "The greatest threat to the region's sovereignty and independence lies in the aggressive policies of the present administration of the United States of America."

CSO: 3298/868

BURNHAM, IN MAY DAY SPEECH, OUTLINES ECONOMIC PLANS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] President Forbes Burnham yesterday outlined a number of projects' proposals--some for joint venture arrangements--to be embarked upon as part of the country's programme for national economic recovery.

Some of these proposals, he told a big May Day rally at the National Park, are already embodied in agreements entered into with some friendly countries.

The projects' proposals include:

--finalising details for starting work on converting the three megawatt hydropower station at Tumatumari into a larger station--

--setting up a hydro-power station at Eclipse Falls in the North West District with the help of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea--

--setting up a hydro-power plant in the Rupununi with the help of the Brazilian Government--

--bringing the glass factory on stream before the end of the year--

--beginning work on the construction of an Agriculture Research Institute with the help of the DPRK--

--establishing a 2 000-hectare model farm on the West Coast of Berbice and

--gold exploration ventures with Canadian and Yugoslav companies

--mining of manganese (once again) in the North West District with the help of the DPRK. He said there are also plans for the further diversification of Guyana's trading relations.

He noted that these proposals should be seen as part of Guyana's pursuit of economic independence. He stressed, however, that the success of these plans depend on co-operation of the people.

Touching on the state of the economy, the President admitted that cost of living is high and prices of essential goods and services are increasing. He noted, however, that such a feature is not peculiar to Guyana and mentioned a number of countries which are affected by somewhat similar problems.

Cde Burnham noted that Guyana is in discussion with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about acceptable terms for balance of payment support. He stressed, however, that running to the Fund is not the way out of the economic situation.

He mentioned a number of countries which are worse off economically, having implemented conditions laid down by the IMF for balance of payment support.

Stressing the importance of stable industrial relations climate, the President noted that millions of dollars were lost through the strike in the bauxite industry last year. The sugar industry also lost money because of the strike called by the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), last year.

He said there is an urgent need to increase production to satisfy this country's conventional markets' requirements while at the same time meeting the demands of counter-trade arrangements.

Counter-trade is important to Guyana at this time since it enables the country to import items it does not produce and for which it does not have the foreign exchange to pay.

He was critical of those people who seem to be of the view that this country will be able to "survive" only "through alms" and he called on Guyanese to make greater use of the resources at their disposal since "the way out is not begging or accepting IMF conditions."

He also urged Guyanese to be guardians of this country's resources so that the illegal export of commodities may be stopped. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/868

TUC OFFICIALS STRESS REBUILDING AT MAY DAY RALLY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] National unity, industrial peace, dedication and a commitment to serve are of vital importance in nation-building, President of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) Samuel Walker stressed yesterday.

Addressing a mass gathering of workers at the TUC's main 1984 May Day rally at the National Park, Cde Walker noted that although Guyana has attained political independence, it was still to achieve economic independence.

In the task of nation-building, Guyanese workers need to learn from the workers in countries devastated by the World Wars who did not sit idle, but who resolved to rebuild their countries, he stressed.

Walker, who is serving his fourth consecutive year as TUC President referred to workers' present "inability" to cope with "soaring prices" of food and other essential goods and services.

In addition, he assured his National Park audience the TUC was examining and would shortly make public its views on the Labour Amendment Act 1984.

He noted that notwithstanding Government's refusal to accept conditions laid out by the IMF, there had been a devaluation of the Guyana dollar, resulting in an automatic rise in the cost-of-living.

Earlier, in welcoming remarks, TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore had underlined the dilemma workers were facing as a result of what he described as the "instant" increase in the prices of essential services and commodities. He advocated an urgent increase in wages and salaries.

President Burnham, in his address to the May Day rally, announced that Government has agreed to an increase in wages and salaries for workers (other than teachers) in the public sector retroactive to January 1, 1984. He pointed out, however, that the details were still being discussed with the TUC.

Cde Pollydore referred to allegations made in an article published in the last issue of the "Caribbean Contact," datelined Georgetown and headlined "Death of a Trade Union Movement."

He said today's large turnout at the rally and parade nailed the lie published by the Contact. He admitted there are difficulties within the Movement, but pointed out that the favourable response to the TUC May Day rally showed the faith workers have in the future of Guyana and their belief that the Trade Union Movement can do something for them. In his address, Cde Walker reiterated the TUC's opposition to the "IMF prescriptions," in view of other countries which had entered into agreements with the Fund.

He noted that certain countries in the developed world were interested in recolonising developing independent States.

On the Labour Amendment Act 1984 Cde Walker said the just-instituted Act was currently being examined by the TUC's Executive Council, The TUC, he explained, would seek more legal advice before making public its views on the Act.

The TUC is also examining the Severance Pay Bill, the Trades Union Recognition Bill and the Trainee Employment and Conditions of Service Bill 1984. He stressed the desirability of legislation to give greater protection to workers, against acts such as wrongful dismissals.

He, however, reminded Guyanese that all must be involved in nation-building in order to win economic independence. "To do otherwise would mean that the struggles of (Hubert Nathaniel) Critchlow and other dedicated workers would have been in vain."

1984 is the 100th birth anniversary of Critchlow, founder of the British Guiana Labour Union in 1919. Critchlow is widely acknowledged as the father of trade unionism in Guyana. This year also, the Guyana Teachers' Association, celebrates its 100th anniversary. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/868

UNION RALLIES HIT TUC ACTIONS, CALL FOR WAGE INCREASES

Jagan at GAWU Rally

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] GAWU held a number of May Day rallies and marches throughout the sugar belt. At one of the largest held, at Port Mourant, Hon President of GAWU, Cheddi Jagan was given a resounding welcome, with workers hoisting him on their shoulders and carrying him to the rostrum. Heavily garlanded, he addressed the May Day rally calling for unity and struggle in the battle which lies ahead of all working people in Guyana.

Dr Jagan said that there were three worlds today, the socialist world which is making steady progress; the capitalist world which is in serious trouble and is depending more and more on militarisation; and the third world, which is in a state of flux. The capitalist crisis is being exported to the third world where some countries are led by the puppets of imperialism. On the other hand, there are those trying to get out of the clutches of imperialism which was the role being played by Grenada, by Chile and by the PPP when it was in office. "Our job is to fight the puppets here."

He referred to an attitude being pushed by some rightist groups to let the Americans come here and things will be better. He reminded the workers that it was the Americans, the CIA, who put the PNC in office in 1964 and said: "Look where that has got us. We've never had it so bad!" The answer is not to bring the Americans here but to fight, in a unified way, to get rid of the puppets of imperialism. We must work and fight for a solution to Guyana's problem and that, he said, was to build a National Patriotic Front Government. "Sugar workers must be in the forefront of the thrust to liberate Guyanese workers and Guyana."

At another May Day Rally at Better Hope, main speakers were GAWU Vice President Janki Persaud, NAACIE General Secretary N.K. Gopaul and Member of Parliament Janet Jagan. Janki Persaud, who had just returned from a trade union conference in Nicaragua spoke of his experiences there and the solidarity of the people in the face of imminent invasion from the USA, either direct or indirect. He said he was deeply impressed with the staunchness of the people and their real determination to die, if necessary, to defend their revolution and the gains of the working people. He called for Guyanese workers solidarity with Nicaragua.

Guest speaker N.K. Gopaul dealt in full with the Labour Amendment Bill and sharply criticised the attitude of the TUC in this matter. He explained the reasons for the strike called by NAACIE and praised GAWU as the only union to give active support to NAACIE's struggle.

The Bill, he said, has given the TUC the legal right to bargain on behalf of unions. This is destroying the trade union right of collective bargaining. It has also had the effect of legalising the withdrawal of the \$14 a day minimum wage agreement which the TUC and the Government never implemented. The workers, he said, have been "conned."

He gave strong support to the strengthening of the bonds of solidarity between sugar and bauxite workers. He also expressed his support for the decision of GAWU's Hon President Cheddi Jagan not to take part in the TUC May Day Rally, not to march with the oppressors.

The last speaker, Janet Jagan discussed at length reasons for the economic crisis and the drastic effects it has had on the working people. She referred to the economic collapse manifested by drops in production of major exports and the consequent drop in export earnings which have caused the sharp reduction in availability of essential goods.

She also dealt with the rightist alliance against the progressive forces, particularly GAWU and the PPP. These groupings are, in fact, aiding the PNC by trying to destroy the only effective party and the only real alternative to the PNC, and hoping to destroy the country's most militant and largest union, GAWU. She referred to those who make up the rightist alliance, including more than one who actively helped rig elections in Guyana. Some of the very people, she said, worked with the PNC and CIA to oust the PPP from government in the 1960s.

She spoke of the long, historical relationship between the PPP and GAWU dating back to 1948 and Enmore, pointing to the fact that such a friendship does not contravene any trade union principle, but in fact, has been a means of furthering the class struggle in Guyana. It is the class struggle, she said, which will determine the outcome of Guyana's future.

GAWU Resolutions

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 May 84 p 2

[Text] Thousands of workers in the sugar belt attending GAWU May Day public meetings and rallies have supported the call for a new wage structure that would be in keeping with the increases in the cost of living.

A resolution to that effect was passed. It noted that wages have remained frozen since 1978 and that unions have been refused the right to bargain for increases.

Workers also rallied around calls for a halt in retrenchment and for benefits to be paid to the growing army of unemployed persons. A resolution called for the implementation of a programme designed to create jobs and training of youths and the unemployed. Another resolution passed noted that sugar workers do not enjoy a full work week and called on GUYSUCO to halt the decline in work opportunities in that industry. Sugar workers are resolved to fight for a full week's work.

Another burning issue in the sugar belt is food. This matter was addressed by leaders of the union at the May Day activities. A resolution passed at all the meetings called for an immediate withdrawal of the bans and restrictions on foodstuffs, especially milk and wheaten flour. The resolution mentions the fact that severe shortages have led to skyrocketing prices, local substitutes are inadequate, limited supplies are distributed in a discriminatory way and decried the increase in malnutrition, and physical and mental disorders. Under these conditions, workers contend, they cannot live and study.

Another important resolution related to the Trades Union Congress. It condemned the "anti-working class manoeuvres" of the PNC-dominated TUC Executive. It called for the TUC to be democratised and that efforts by the progressive block of unions should be redoubled to bring an end to this state of affairs.

The resolution on the TUC said the TUC has not championed the cause of the workers mainly due to its undemocratic composition and that the PNC government has perpetrated this situation to further its anti-working class policies.

The Labour Amendment Act 1984, recently passed in the National Assembly by the PNC's rigged majority, was condemned. This act, says one resolution, denies workers their right to increment, legalises the undemocratic TUC as the supreme bargaining agent and reduces wage negotiations to the level of Presidential decrees among other things. It called on workers, trade unions, in and out of Guyana, to act unitedly to rescind this law.

Other resolutions dealt with more benefits for pensioners, the decline in social services and the escalating crime situation.

On international matters workers supported calls for a halt in US imperialist intervention in revolutionary Nicaragua and El Salvador. They supported the revolutionaries in Central America fighting for freedom against local fascist rulers and their imperialist masters.

The bloody US-led invasion of Grenada was also condemned and a call was made for the immediate removal of all foreign troops stationed on the island. The resolution on Grenada urged the establishment of a new administration comprised of former leaders of the People's Revolutionary Government and the New Jewel Movement, which brought immense benefits to Grenadians during the five years of democratic rule.

Other Rallies

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 May 84 p 4

[Text] The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) has repeated its call for a political solution to end the deep seated crisis which has engulfed the nation. The call was reiterated by the union's Communication Secretary James Dastijir when he addressed thousands of workers in Berbice who thronged a massive pre-May Day rally sponsored by six militant unions within the Trades Union Congress (TUC) including GAWU.

James Dastijir outlined the harsh economic conditions of the working class in the country, especially the rapidly deteriorating living standards. In the face of the numerous pressures on the people he urged the implementation of the TUC Melville Report recommendations which puts the daily minimum wage at \$38.01.

The leading trade unionist criticised the collaborationist role of some labour leaders with the regime and exposed the subserviency of the TUC. "Today the TUC is not acting in the interests of the working class and is merely used as a pawn of the ruling Party," he declared.

"The TUC has repeatedly failed to defend the workers from the continuous onslaught of government policies, particularly those which were dictated by the IMF--retrenchment of workers in the state sector. Hundreds were laid off in the bauxite industry last year, the IMF also brought devaluation and food bans. Lately there was labour legislation foisted on the people by the government. The legislation will curtail basic trade union rights," he added.

"However, it is necessary to strengthen the fledgling unity of the six anti-government unions within the TUC. There must be a further deepening and expansion of such organised strategic unity. The process must be extended to embrace the entire labour movement as a whole, in order to sharpen the class struggle to effectively defend the workers," he concluded.

Representatives from the CCWU, GBSU and NAACIE also addressed the rally at Pitt and Main streets, New Amsterdam.

Meanwhile, the GAWU's Communication Officer James Dastijir will be representing his union at the May Day celebrations in Moscow and will participate in a Peace Conference sponsored by the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions. The Peace Conference will be convened under three themes: "Crisis of capitalism, Arms Race--Conditions of life of the working people:" "The anti-war movement and Trade Unions" and "Development--Workers International Solidarity in the struggle against militarisation." James Dastijir will be presenting a position paper from his union.

Union's Call for Recognition

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] The National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE) headed by General Secretary N.K. Gopaul, has applied to the Guyana Sugar Corporation for recognition as the sole bargaining agent for Field Foremen and Forewomen on all sugar estates.

According to the letter of application to Guysuco's Chief Industrial Relations Manager, NAACIE currently has as financial members more than fifty percent of the workers in that category. The Union said it is "prepared at any time to satisfy your Company that the overwhelming majority of workers have implicit confidence in and full support for the Union to be recognised as their sole bargaining agent."

Field Foremen and Forewomen are currently being represented by the Guyana Field Foreman and Supervisors' Union headed by C. Charran. Workers in that category have long been complaining that the kind of representation they have leaves much to be desired. NAACIE is now challenging Charran's Union.

NAACIE's General Secretary, Gopaul, has indicated that he was willing to meet with Guysuco within the next two weeks to discuss and resolve this matter.

Denunciation of TUC Rallies

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 6 May 84 p 2

[Text] A New Amsterdam crowd of more than 2,000 on Wed April 25 heard speakers for the six unions--NAACIE, GAWU, GMWU, GBSU, CCWU and UGSA denounce the TUC sponsored May Day rallies.

Lincoln Lewis of GBSU declared that the bauxite workers would not march under the banner of the oppressors of the working people.

He said it was a shame and a disgrace that the Executive of the TUC should have among its members two Ministers of the Government and a parliamentary secretary, who, when negotiations were going on, found themselves on the other side of the fence.

Bro Gopaul of NAACIE pointed out that the Minister in charge of organising the rallies was the same Minister who had rushed the obnoxious Bill through Parliament and made it law.

This same Minister, he added, was supposed to be the chief conciliator in disputes.

Other speakers were B. Philadelphia of CCWU, Dastajir of GAWU and Malcolm Thompson of GMWU, who chaired the meeting.

A meeting organised by the six unions in Georgetown the following day failed to attract a similar crowd.

CSO: 3298/869

WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE DEBATES FUTURE POLICY

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] An important development has taken place in the Working People's Alliance, arising out of the internal ideological debate that had been going on at Central Council level (reported in the Catholic Standard on Feb 12 last).

At a membership meeting on April 14 and 15 last it was agreed that the party was not an exclusive Marxist/Leninist party, but that from its inception it had contained Leninist, as well as Social Democratic and Democratic elements.

The meeting unanimously passed a motion, moved by Clive Thomas and seconded by Rupert Rupnaraine, for the WPA to reconsider and reformulate its original programme.

The revising of the programme is to be put in the hands of a committee appointed by the Central Committee.

The new draft will be sent to members and then put to a members meeting for approval and the process must last no longer than a year.

It is likely that the party will now be more accommodating internally to various democratic viewpoints.

Emphasis from now on is expected to be put less on socialist orientation and more on rebuilding the economy and preparing for elections.

The Grenada affair had brought the debate to a head. It had enabled those members who questioned some of the orthodox tenets of Leninism to raise the issues of political pluralism, tolerance of internal dissent and the role of so-called 'bourgeois democratic principles,' such as free pluralist elections, press freedom and open party debate as crucial to the future role of the WPA.

In a Press Release the WPA stated: "What Guyana needs is reconstruction, but reconstruction cannot succeed without, as a minimum, a strong dose of good, old-fashioned, pluralistic democracy..."

It goes on to state: "The party remains convinced that the revolution in Guyana must not be anti-American."

CSO: 3298/869

PPP ORGAN SAYS COOPERATIVE SECTOR IS 'IN DECLINE'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 May 84 p 4

[Text] The co-operative sector is continuing to limp along, faced with problems which government does little to help them overcome. Over the past years many have been dissolved, or have simply fallen apart, or have been struck off the register by the authorities. The latest casualty to come to light is the Dartmouth Farmers Co-operative Land Society Ltd No 943.

In a gazetted notice, Chief Co-operatives Development Officer M.G. Edghill said: "I, being of the opinion that the members of the Committee of the above-named society have become incapable of managing the affairs of the society, hereby with effect from the date hereof, assume control of the society, and further hereby appoint Cde Kenneth Johnson District Co-operatives Development Officer Region 2 to manage the affairs of the society until further notice."

The notice stipulates that one third of the members of the society may within 21 days "appeal in writing to the Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives."

Notices pertaining to 2 other societies were also inserted in the same issue of the gazette. One referring to the Electra Co-operative Credit Union Ltd No 302 and signed by Mr Edghill fixes a meeting of the society for May 3, 1984 at the GEC Middle Street office at 3.00 p.m. Among the 9 items on the agenda is "hearing and deciding upon any complaints brought by members aggrieved by a decision of the Committee." Mr Edghill also authorised Daniel Fisher the chairman to preside.

The second notice relates to the Guyana Peasant Farmers Co-operative Land Society Ltd No 1632. The agenda consists of only 3 items, but item 2 says: "To discuss the affairs of the society and to take such action as may be deemed necessary." Mr Edghill further said that "Regional Co-operatives Development Officer C. Moore is hereby authorised by me to preside at the meeting."

Reports from the Ministry of Co-ops as presented to the National Assembly have regularly listed internal disputes as one of the main problems facing co-op societies. The 3 societies mentioned here are all affected by disputes. Two of them are in the productive sector.

CSO: 3298/869

MILITIA LEADER WARNS AGAINST SUBVERSION, SABOTAGE

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] Commandant of the Guyana People's Militia, Colonel Carl Morgan, has advised reservists to beware of acts of sabotage and subversion.

Speaking at the Fourth G.P.M. Regional Camp Passing Out ceremony Colonel Morgan told the more than 120 reservists that their role was not only to follow but to give leadership.

He called on non-commissioned officers to work selflessly with dedication and commitment to ensure that the G.P.M. presence is felt throughout the Region.

Cde Morgan also reminded the reservists about the three areas in which the entire nation must be prepared for defence. These, he said, are defence in a military service, defence in an economic service and internal defence.

Also addressing the reservists was GPM Captain Harold D'Aguiar, who is also Regional Chairman. He congratulated them for what he described as an exercise well done.

Captain D'Aguiar urged them to be active and to pass on their knowledge by organising others in their respective People's Co-operatives. More than 15 persons were promoted to be non-commissioned officers.

There are now six sergeants and one captain in Region Nine.

CSO: 3298/869

PPP JOINS PNC ON BILL CRACKING DOWN ON SMUGGLERS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Aay 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by Leon Walcott]

[Text] The People's National Congress (PNC) was yesterday supported by the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP) in its effort to stem the illegal outflow of gold and diamonds from the country.

The support was given in the National Assembly as Energy and Mines Minister, Harun Rashid successfully piloted the Mining Amendment Bill 1984 through all its stages.

In the debate, Cde Rashid told the National Assembly that although Government has "offered the coconut branch to miners," by appealing to their sense of patriotism and also by offering greater incentives, the illegal outflow of gold and diamonds has not been stopped.

He stressed that if gold is to play a leading role in the country's economic recovery, controls have to be set up.

"The Bill should not be regarded as an unwarranted attack on the mining community," he stressed. Rather, it should be seen as a "declaration of war" on smugglers and other subversive elements.

People's Progressive Party Front-Bencher, Reepu Daman Persaud, referred to his party's support for the legislation but contended that steps should be taken by the Government to establish more effective monitoring and controlling mechanisms in the country's six Mining Districts.

The Mining Amendment Bill increases the penalties for breaches of the Mining Act. Failure to declare outputs, making false declarations, failure to register dredges, selling the minerals to unauthorised gold dealers are all considered breaches of the Act.

Maximum penalties for these breaches have been increased from a fine of \$1 500 or six months' imprisonment to a fine of \$25 000 and five years' imprisonment.

Cde Rashid explained that the decision to pass legislation intended to correct irregularities in the country's gold mining districts was taken at the Second Supreme Congress of the People last December.

At that Congress, delegates passed a resolution calling on the Government to take steps to stop the illegal export of gold and diamonds from this country. The resolution also suggested that the steps include increased penalties for offenders.

This is the second time in eight months that the National Assembly has approved legislation providing for increased penalties for persons who contravene the country's Gold Mining Regulations.

The Minister said that although there has been an increase in the sale of gold to the two-year-old Guyana Gold Board, this increase does not reflect the true production picture.

The sale of gold to the Board increased from 2 650 ounces in 1982 to 5 383 ounces last year. This year, sales are expected to reach the 10 000-ounce mark.

He said through smuggling of gold, Guyana has been robbed of millions of dollars which should have been available for the country's developmental process.

He saw the current situation in Guyana's Mining Districts as a classic example of the failure of the free market forces to help the economy.

In his contribution to the debate, PPP Front-Bencher Reepu Daman Persaud said: "We (the PPP) firmly believe that the resources should be used for the benefit of the nation."

He called on the Government to examine the reasons for miners wanting to sell their gold on the parallel market rather than to the Guyana Gold Board.

He suggested that stiffer penalties for offenders may not be the answer and argued that the Government ought to instil confidence in the minds of the gold miners.

However, the Energy and Mines Minister explained that his Ministry has had dialogue with gold miners on many occasions and has tried to assist them in their operations.

He noted that foreign exchange has been made available to miners to import equipment and spare parts. In addition arrangements have been made from time to time for scarce commodities to be sent to the Mining Districts.

Cde Persaud, however, observed that overtures by the Government have not reduced the incidence of smuggling and called for a global examination of illegal trading so that a global solution may be found.--(GNA)

CSO: 3298/869

COUNTER-TRADE ARRANGEMENTS SAID NECESSARY FOR GROWTH

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 6 May 84 p 8

[Text] With the world economic climate the way it is a number of countries have developed counter-trade arrangements as a means of obtaining commercial goods, equipment and raw material necessary for their national development.

Guyana, one of the developing countries with a problem of foreign exchange has also been using counter-trade as a means of acquiring equipment and at the same time, finding markets for some of its exports.

To date, Guyana has established counter-trade arrangements with Trinidad and Tobago, Japan, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the German Democratic Republic and Bulgaria.

Leader of the People's National Congress and President, Cde Forbes Burnham, during his address to the May Day rally in Georgetown, Tuesday, explained that these counter-trade arrangements place greater responsibility on the Guyanese workers who must also produce to satisfy the traditional markets.

To achieve this, our workers must produce more, Cde Burnham told the rally. A failure to satisfy these arrangements would result in the national image being tarnished in relation to its ability to honour contracts and to satisfy agreements.

During the past year, in the face of a harsh economic climate, our workers were permitted to go on strike in the bauxite community leading to a loss in production in a highly competitive market, Cde Burnham observed. Millions of dollars were lost.

Then there were the strikes in the sugar industry. We need sugar for industrial goods which we can obtain through counter-trade, and we also need the commodity for sale on the World market. Yet we produced less sugar than we were capable of, Cde Burnham said.

With the developments in the area of counter-trade, we cannot afford politically-inspired or frivolous stoppages of work, he added.

Cde Burnham continued: "We have to produce more. Managers and workers must co-operate. Neither side can do it alone and we have to be determined. The economy is a matter of total national concern."

CSO: 3298/870

TENNASSEE, IN BARBADOS, MOURNS LOCAL LABOR MOVEMENT

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 May 84 p 2

[Text]

The labour union in Guyana is legally dead. This is the view of Mr. Paul Tennassee, president of the Democratic Labour Movement in Guyana who is currently visiting Barbados.

Mr. Tennassee told a Press conference yesterday that the ruling People's National Congress had passed a law which stated that workers' wages were no longer considered private property, that no trade union could negotiate wages for the workers it represented and the negotiation of wages was to be done by Government and a trade union council.

This council, he said, included four members of the Cabinet. The law also gives the President of Guyana the right to make the final decision on wage increases.

Mr. Tennassee said that the trade union movement had to realise that it should fight at the political level in order to get the gains which should normally be granted under the law.

"This type of legislation sets the mood for a more militant kind of struggle. It has pushed the unions on to the streets to seek justice for the workers they represent."

He said that up to now the political forces in Guyana had failed to put up a united front which was necessary but the time had come for a major effort in this direction.

He described the labour law as the most dangerous ever enacted in the Eastern Caribbean

and said it flew in the face of all the trade unions had ever worked for.

Mr. Tennassee said the Democratic Labour Movement was seeking the support of all Caribbean trade unions in condemning this legislation. While in Barbados, he hopes to meet with local trade union leaders.

CSO: 3298/857

BRIEFS

GDF ACTING CHIEF--Colonel David Granger, Commander of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) is now Acting Chief-of-Staff in the absence of Brigadier Norman McLean. Cde McLean is on four months vacation leave from May 1, a release from the Defence Secretariat said yesterday. Colonel Carl Morgan, Commandant of the Guyana People's Militia will act as GDF Commander during this period, while Lieutenant-Colonel Watson Joseph will carry out the duties of the Commandant, Guyana People's Militia. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 May 84 p 1]

CUBAN CREDIT--Guyana will receive shipments of cement, lavatory seats and 100-pound gas cylinders through a \$2.5m (C'da) line of credit arrangement between Cuba and Guyana. A shipment of cement is already here, while the Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC), the handling agency, says that monthly shipments are expected to ease a severe shortage in the country. Executive Chairman Fitz Griffith told the Chronicle Tuesday that a limited shipment of 400 hundred pound cylinders should arrive in a month's time. It was not clear whether any more cylinders are expected. With respect to the lavatory seats the Chairman said they should be adequate enough to satisfy local demand for the remainder of the year. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 May 84 p 8]

ATTACK ON UNION ADVISERS--In the arly days the trade union had no friends to advise it on its rights--human and inhuman. Today the trade union has many advisers who suddenly discover that they can advise Guyanese on their rights. Addressing the recent May Day rally, Leader of the People's National Congress Cde Forbes Burnham referred to these 'advisers' as Judases and as "Greeks bearing gifts." He noted that some even seek to advise government to accept the present proposals by the International Monetary Fund. But nearly every country that has accepted the IMF proposals are actually worse off than it started. Jamaica, one such country, is now closing its sugar mills making some 17000 workers redundant. In Bolivia there have been massive increases in the price of food and in the Dominican Republic some 50 demonstrators have been shot and killed because they protested against the harsh austerity measures resulting from the IMF conditions here, he noted. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 6 May 84 p 8]

NEW TRADE PARTNERS--Guyana is to benefit from a number of joint programmes involving some new trading partners. These programmes include work on the exploitation of some of the country's natural resources and on the development of the national agricultural potential. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is to begin work on the Eclipse Falls in Region One. When completed the Eclipse Falls will generate enough power to electrify the Matthew's Ride-Arakaka area and provide a boost to small industries in the Region. The DPRK is also targeted to commence mining the manganese in the Region re-opening a chapter in mineral exploitation in this nation's history. This country will also assist in setting up the proposed agricultural research station. Neighbouring Brazil is to help establish a hydro power project in the Rupununi, the Canadians are to help exploit gold and diamond in two locations and the Yugoslavs are also to work on the exploitation of gold. Other projects include the establishment of a 800 hectare (2000-acre) model farm in Region Five, the commissioning of the glass factory by year-end. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 6 May 84 p 8]

CSO: 3298/870

SEAGA INTRODUCES 1984-85 BUDGET; PNP RAISES OBJECTIONS

Report on Budget Speech

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 84 pp 1, 26

[Text]

A sharp reduction in public expenditure planned by the Government to slash the Budget deficit in half, from 15.4 per cent to 8.3 per cent of G.D.P., or \$605-million, will involve cutbacks in the Civil Service.

As far as possible, the Prime Minister said in his Budget speech last night, there is to be no wastage in the public sector. To this end, staffing of all Ministries, Departments and other public bodies will be subjected to a redundancy programme.

On the positive side, Mr. Seaga noted that the Jamaican dollar was now stabilising at around J\$4 to the U.S. \$1.

A food security programme for pregnant and nursing women, children up to three years of age, school children, the elderly and the poor is being introduced this year, with the use of food stamps.

Tax relief for wage-earners below \$5,000 a year has been granted, and the National Minimum Wage is to be increased this year to \$1 an hour for house old helpers and to \$1.15 per hour for other categories.

Two new institutions are being created: the Jamaica Export Credit Insurance Corporation to become the National Export Import Bank and the Jamaica National Investment Company to become the National Investment Bank.

Mr. Seaga wound up his presentation with the following summary:

"The central theme of my presentation has been the direction of the next three years. The past three years

have produced much gain and much pain. Amid the statistical flow relating results of economic reforms and financial programmes to extract as much gain as possible from a world economy in pain, a picture emerges of laudable but limited headway in dealing with the welfare of the nation at the point where both social and economic problems meet - unemployment.

In battling the forces of depression to gain headway against unemployment, we can move either in the direction of continuing the gradual record to achieve or seek to accelerate the pace of recovery and the rate of job creation.

"Achievement, there has been. Unemployment has not increased by 50% from 180,000 to 270,000 as it did between 1972 and 1980. Today after three years, the rate is 26.1 per cent as compared with the 27.4 per cent level of 1980. A decrease?

"And this has been the result despite the fact that net migration figures show that over these past 3 years there has been an increase of some 25,000 returning residents to Jamaica, a sizeable number of whom would be in the labour force. This has placed an extra strain on the economy for more jobs.

The new resources needed to step up the pace of job creation to the target of new jobs we outlined in 1981, would not be necessary had there not been a reduction of US\$327 million in foreign exchange and J\$494 million in revenues from the collapse of bauxite earnings due to the world recession.

"But these resources have been lost and, as I have indicated, the level of bauxite earnings which existed in 1980 won't be achieved again until near 1990 because of the gradual rate of recovery from the recession.

"So new resources are needed to replace these lost earnings or we must proceed on a gradual pace of recovery with a slow rate of reduction in unemployment.

The strategies which have given effect to this gradual rate of recovery are the economic recovery programme and the structural adjustment programme, I remind you.

"But the former, we have successfully turned around the negatives which persisted in the economy until 1980, producing positive movement in all areas except in the recovery of the foreign exchange reserves.

"The structural adjustment programme has effected:

- A recovery of the tourism sector with 44 per cent growth since 1980;

- A re-vitalisation of the agricultural sector with great potential for export earnings now, through Agro 21 and ethnic food exports.

- A new orientation of the manufacturing sector to the export market through the CBI based on more than 200 Jamaican manufactured products which are now competitive in North America

"To reach a point of competitiveness, the Jamaican dollar has been devalued to a level which has now stabilised at J\$1 = US\$1. The purpose of this was to create more jobs and earn more foreign exchange from export manufacturing. The cost of this has been substantial increases in the cost of food, gas, electricity and a range of other products. The purpose cannot be looked at without the cost, nor the cost without the purpose. They are linked in one strategy.

"When we complain of higher food, gas and electricity costs, the purpose is to enable the creation of more jobs to reduce the ranks of 274,000 unemployed; to help to earn more to benefit the 200,000 households comprising 40 per cent of the population who earn no more than a household income of \$50 per week.

"To save that group at the bottom of the income stream from the impact of higher food costs, Government has structured a food security programme to provide food aid through food stamps to assist those 200,000 households, 200,000 pregnant and nursing

women and children up to 3 years old, and 600,000 pre-primary, primary, post-primary and new secondary school children, a total of 1 million people or one-half of the total population.

"In addition, 90,000 workers earning up to \$7000 per annum will benefit from new income tax relief.

"In addition, there will be increases in the minimum wage in two stages to the end of 1984, with a further increase to commence in January, 1985.

"These measures are intended to offset some of the extra cost of living for many but not all.

For others, the extra costs will mean reducing the amount of food, clothing, electricity or gas which we use. If the result is more jobs for the unemployed and more export earnings from which all will benefit, the sacrifice will not be in vain.

"If all this is what is meant by being "bitten by fine-ants" then I would rather the bite of "ants" than to suffer from "Castro-enteritis" I don't know of anyone who has died from the bite of ants, but the graveyard is full of bodies of the dead from Castro-enteritis!

"Our first mission was to turn around the economy and then set it on the right path.

"That mission, in most part, has been accomplished. Time and determination will fulfil what has not yet been done.

"What we look to now is the next mission. The rate at which time is to complete the programme of recovery and the extent to which recovery must go.

"Is it to be a slow and gradual pace or speeded up to meet the urgency of frustration and needs?

"Is the recovery over the next 3 years to be satisfied only with reaching the employed and bettering their lot, or must it reach down to the unemployed even if those who have job security must sacrifice something for those who have not?

"It is an effort to reach down to the unemployed that Government has structured the food sufficiency programme, to put idle hands on idle lands to produce for ourselves over the next 4 years much of what we now import.

75 per cent of the rice we eat;

45 per cent of the soya we process;

31 per cent of the cassava we need to replace imported corn for animal feed;

9 per cent of the milk we drink;

98 per cent of the meat we eat;

And 124 per cent of fish we import.

The project will create 17,000 new jobs and save US\$132.1 million in foreign exchange over the next four years.

But even that is not enough. To make a dramatic impact on unemployment, to create 45,000 new jobs each year, budget expenditure should be increased by J\$200 million per annum over the next 4 years and the import budget by US\$125 million in year 1 to US\$225 million in year 4.

"The areas of new resources that we have to draw on will take us a considerable part of the way as I have outlined to you in this presentation. We are already on the way.

"The question that remains is whether there are any means by which we can accelerate the slow and steady upward move of our economy and the accompanying slow and steady increase in employment.

"We have to face reality: bauxite mining will take several more years to recover - energy substitution of coal, peat and hydro-power for oil will save much foreign exchange but not until near the end of the decade;

"Manufacturing is now poised to reap big benefits but is an untested performer in the big league.

"That leaves tourism which is reaching near capacity in present accommodation, and ready for expansion to double the number of visitors if we have the rooms and infrastructure. This requires heavy capital investment and more time.

"Do we approve casino gaming which can provide investment and employment at an accelerated pace to reach down dramatically to the ranks of the unemployed? As you have heard amongst proposals received by us is one for 3000 new rooms; US\$300 million annually in foreign exchange, US\$100 million in levy fees each year, 15,000 new jobs for Jamaicans.

"In an issue of this nature that in a true democracy we not only have the right to speak but the duty to listen.

"We as a government owe it to the country to examine all our options to shorten the time in winning the race between development and discontent. Let me be quite clear. The Budget does not require casino operations for its success. The government does not require casino operations for the suc-

"That this Government will not do! It is bold of us to think that we can arise from our plight by owning less of the means of production, maintain and expand civil rights, and decentralise the control of the economy to include private management and decision makers.

We have deregulated import and export controls, increased incentives, divested ownership and freed-up the climate of controls to allow Jamaican initiative to produce profit and earn reward, whether as higgler, shopkeeper, mini-bus operator, small businessman, developer, farmer or investor.

"There is some conjecture that in our boldness we may fail.

"Some who predict this have failed already - failed when they took one of the healthiest small economies in the world and demolished it to a basket case in 8 years, washed their hands like pilate and walked away, leaving us to reconstruct what they destroyed.

"Some are well-wishers and friends who are concerned lest the country may return to the path of the Cuban adventure.

"I told the country that this would be a bitter year. All the things we have to do to make things right will be done this year no matter if they are unpopular, for the country cannot postpone this medicine to treat the ailment to make us well again. It is a

cess of its strategies. The only difference which casino gambling will make is the extent and rate of recovery — how far down into the unemployment we can reach and how fast. Without it, Government's strategies will still continue to produce the gradual recovery which we have effected with a gradual improvement in unemployment as we have in fact been achieving.

"It is in this light that the debate on casino gambling should proceed, that it is not essential to the Government's performance in effecting recovery, but plays a central role in any strategy to increase resources for any dramatic decrease of unemployment and increase in the earnings of foreign exchange.

Some have said it is a bold plan we have. It is true: it is a time for bold vision, bold plans and bold ideas.

The boldness of what we conceive comes not so much in what we ask of the people of Jamaica, but in what we ourselves as a government will not do alone.

It is traditional for poor countries in times of economic hardship to seek to establish oppressive governments using power under the pretext of national emergency to own more production, deny civil rights, and centralise the control of the economy in the hands of government.

passing phase that in the end will make more Jamaicans able to share in employment and have better earnings, problems we have which we cannot postpone. In the end what is painful now will finish well.

"I will tell you a little story which is relevant, when my son Christopher was active in swimming he sometimes lapsed into watching the swimmer in the next line. How often I heard the coach tell him, "Chris, swim your own race, don't watch the next man, watch the finish line."

"I offer this advice to all good Jamaicans each to swim your own race with all the effort that you can; don't watch the man beside you, watch the finish line.

"When we started this race against time and despair in 1980 we didn't start at the same point with the rest of the pack for the man who passed the baton had fallen 2 laps behind. We have had to work harder just to catch up.

"We haven't yet caught up to where we were 12 years ago in 1972, but as a nation I know that if we continue well this struggle, we can. I have the confidence that we can, and I ask you to share this confidence that we can, for I remind you, if you spell the word Jamaican, you will find in every Jamaican "I can".

"Good night, and may God bless you all."

Ministry Papers

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Eleven Ministry Papers were tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday, some of them setting out in detail aspects of the Prime Minister's opening of the budget debate last night.

Also tabled were: Report and Statement of Accounts of the Bank of Jamaica year ended 31st December 1983, Pocketbook of Statistics Jamaica 1983, National Income and Product Preliminary Report 1983, Consumer Price Indices Annual Review 1983, Production Statistics 1983, the Labour Force 1983 Preliminary Report Demographic Statistics 1983, and Financial Statements and Revenue Estimates for 1984/85.

Ministry Paper No. 20 contains Air Jamaica's annual report 1982; No. 21 deals with the report of the

Task Force on Work Attitudes; No. 22 carries the Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the annual general conference of the International Labour Organisation — 1976-1983; No. 23 has in it Legal Reform in the areas of Family and Penal Legislation; No. 24 sets out details of the Establishment of the National Investment Bank (for Investment and Divestment); No. 25 deals with the setting up of the National Export/Import Bank; No. 26 contains Administrative Reforms; No. 27, the Food Sufficiency Plan; No. 28, the Food Security Plan; and No. 29, a Study of Casino Gambling in Jamaica.

The sitting, which got off to a late start after a lengthy Cabinet meeting, also appointed five committees.

They are: Public Accounts Committee, a Joint Private Bills Committee, a Committee of Privileges, a House Committee, and a Joint Select Committee to deal with Constitutional amendments.

An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act to provide for a levy on the sale of second-hand vehicles, piloted by the Leader of Government Business, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, was passed.

The House approved a resolution contained in Ministry Paper No. 19

for Government guarantee of a \$22 million loan to buy 200 buses for the Corporate Area transport system.

The Speaker, the Hon. Alva Ross, at the start of the sitting which saw 48 members present, acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Esmie Jackson, newly appointed Clerk of the Cayman

Islands House of Assembly, who has come on a visit to observe Jamaica's Parliamentary operations and procedure.

On a motion from Mr. Smith, the House took a recess at 5:20 to 7:00 p.m. when the Prime Minister began his Budget presentation.

PNP Response

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 May 84 p 14

[Text]

A deliberate and calculated deception of the Jamaican people was how People's National Party's Finance spokesman, Mr. Seymour Mullings, described the 1984/85 estimates which were tabled in the House of Representatives last week Thursday.

Mr. Mullings who was giving the party's reply to the budget speech made by the Prime Minister at a special PNP "People's Forum" at the Oceana Hotel, Downtown Kingston on Monday, said that the budget speech was no longer a major economic policy statement, but had been "devalued" into a public relations operations presented at prime time and completed with "orchestrated applause".

Mr. Mullings said that the presentation was a deception because it did not discuss economic issues including, the failure to get an IMF agreement, the number of people to be laid off and price increases.

He said that the major fiscal policy measures were taken outside of the budget and the Prime Minister's presentation gave no information on how the economy will behave in the next year, which was what a budget is supposed to do.

"Even what is in the budget has to be carefully examined because the government has consistently refused to level with the people," Mr. Mullings said.

"I have no confidence in what was said. I do not believe that the country has been told the truth about the economic crises. I do not think you can believe anything which the government says."

Mr. Mullings said that the country was being told that there was economic recovery, when the truth was that, "the country has never been as bad as it is".

The test of an economic policy was not whether G.D.P. grew by one per cent, but what was the standard of living of the majority of the people.

He said that one-half of the population was to be given food stamps by the United States' Government.

"It is the U.S. Government that is giving the food. The Jamaican people do not want their government to be going around the world begging free food. It was only in the days of slavery that we had to eat cornmeal three times a day and seven days a week."

Mr. Mullings said that the government had no plan, model or policy which could solve the economic disaster which its "mismanagement" had caused.

He said that the Government's "mismanagement" was demonstrated by the fact that the dollar had been devalued by over 100 per cent in the last six months, it had twice failed the IMF tests, it was in arrears of foreign debt repayment and the standard of living had fallen by 25 per cent in the first half of 1984.

The IMF has no confidence in the Government and that was why after nine months there was no agreement with the Fund. The bankers had no confidence and would not lend and foreign investors had no confidence which was why only 50 of the 221 JNIP projects were foreign, he said.

"The Jamaican people can have no confidence in the Government because the present budget is built on quick sand. There is no IMF agreement and there is no certainty of getting a rescheduling or refinancing of external debt. The Prime Minister is gambling the economic future of the country on casino gambling," he said.

Mr. Mullings accused the Prime Minister of conducting a "blame the victim" campaign to distract attention from the real problems. He said that at one time or another the Prime Minister had blamed the bankers, the hoteliers, the exporters, the importers, the manufacturers, the trade unions and the workers.

The financial statements and revenue estimates for 1984/85 revealed that of the \$931.6 million of external loans that the government sought, it secured only \$580.2 million.

Domestic loans should have realised \$321.1 million. Government borrowed \$1,091.1 million or \$770 million more than it originally planned. The total loan receipts were \$1,671.4 million for 1983/84 as against \$1,252.7 million originally planned for.

He said that the Prime Minister in his presentation had not attempted to present a Foreign Exchange Budget for the current year, nor did he apologise to the country for not being in a position to do so.

He said that it was a cause for alarm that the interest payments on Debt accounted for \$1,067 million in the budget, and was \$2 more than the entire Capital Budget.

He said that the budget was providing only \$665 million for real development works or 17 per cent of the total budget.

He said that it was worthy of note that of the real capital provision of \$665 million, the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning accounted for 45.5 of that provision, with the other 17 Ministries sharing 54.3%.

"What we find when we examine the proposed budget, is that of a recurrent budget of \$2,828 million, one man in his many portfolios has control over \$1,250 million or 44.2 per cent of the recurrent budget. On the capital side, the situation is even worse. Of a capital budget of \$1,066 million, some \$704 million or 66 per cent rest in the control of Edward Seaga. What this means overall, is that of the total budget of some \$3.8 billion, some 50.2 per cent-more than half, is under the control of one man.

"This is a totally unacceptable situation. We are moving clearly to a situation of 'one man' government reminiscent of the days of the colonial Governor. Already we see signs that Ministers are not consulted on matters concerning their own portfolios, not to mention the failure to consult the people or respond to public opinion.

"This situation, will also mean that information as well as money will become increasingly concentrated in the hands of one man. Again we protest and say that this situation is unacceptable.

"We would like to warn the country and to underline our view that "one man" development plans, run counter to the system of Government for which our people all fought. It presents us with a spectre which is all the more threatening, especially in the context of an unusual constitutional situation." He said.

Prayers were given by the Rev. Dr. Horace Russell and Mr. Carl Rattray was chairman of the meeting.

Budget-IMF Linkage

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 May 84 p 8

[Text]

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Seaga, in his Budget presentation last Thursday night stated that the tax package of \$183.6 million announced for the 1984-85 fiscal year was consistent with the Government's agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Apart from this, Mr. Seaga made no mention of the status of the current negotiations with the IMF, although he must have known that the country was anxiously awaiting a report on it.

In a post-Budget press conference, Mr. Seaga, however,

explained that the agreement on a new facility with the IMF is expected to be put before the Fund's Board at the end of this month. This, presumably, accounted also for the absence of the foreign exchange budget from Mr. Seaga's presentation. For while the Budget projects a resource gap varying between U.S.\$100 million to U.S.\$225 million over the next three years the Government is in no position to assure the country of access to reasonable inflows.

The fact is that the Government's ability to provide foreign exchange to support its

programme is dependent on the outcome of the negotiations with the IMF. Access to lines of credit which, according to Mr. Seaga, the Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, Mr. Barber, has been negotiating in Washington, will be determined by the accord between the Government and the Fund. Of even greater importance is the programme for a re-scheduling of the country's external debt which could make the major difference between economic stagnation and real growth. For, as Mr. Seaga told the country, it will require some \$1,000 million, an equivalent of almost 40 percent of the projected revenues for fiscal 1984-85, to pay interest on the national debt. In other words, the export of capital through debt service is depriving the country of resources to finance economic development. The country well knows that unless the agreement with the IMF is successfully concluded the prospect of re-scheduling, and access to additional capital inflows will diminish.

The Government, however, while not disclosing the details of the IMF proposals, has been

nonetheless effecting adjustment measures indicative of IMF prescriptions. The currency devaluations, the targets for slashing the Budget deficit, and the programme to scale down the cost of running the Government are all in line.

In not announcing the foreign exchange budget the Government, it seems, is doing its best to tread very carefully lest false hopes are raised about foreign exchange capacity. For while the arrangements for capturing the resources in the foreign exchange earning sectors may be having the desired effects, it is clear that there are no areas generating new resources sufficient to ease significantly the pressure on the exchange reserves.

In our view the more critical side of the Budget is yet to come. For any prospect of the manufacturing sector, for example, improving on the 60 percent of capacity now in production, of sustaining real economic stability and the relief to the needy, depends on the resources available to fund growth and increased production. This is what makes the foreign exchange so critical.

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES FOOD PROGRAM; AGRICULTURAL GAINS SEEN

Outline of Plan

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Food stamps are to be introduced in Jamaica under a \$141-million food plan to benefit over one million Jamaicans. It will be put into place as of June 1, this year, according to Ministry Paper No. 28 tabled by Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, in Parliament yesterday.

The plan, which will be administered by the Ministry of Social Security through its Public Assistance Programme under a Food Stamp System, is being financed by the United States Agency for International Development (US/AID) PL480 scheme, the European Economic Commission's World Food Programme and the Italian Government.

The programme will provide daily lunches for 600,000 school-children aged four years and over in pre-Primary, Primary, All-Age and Secondary schools, milk and cornmeal for 200,000 pregnant and nursing women, as well as children up to 3 years; and rice, cornmeal and skimmed milk powder for 200,000 elderly or very poor people.

Aims of the plan are to provide access to a specified number of basic food items for these categories to maintain the existing marginal nutrition levels of persons who are generally "at risk" of falling into the group of being malnourished in the event of a change in purchasing power; improved nutrition levels for school children by expanding the school feeding programme; and a minimum nutrition intake level for persons who have little or no visible income.

Food Stamps valued at \$20 will be issued in books every two months from the date of first issue. The date of issue will be on the cover of the book. Interim issues will be made to applicants at Public Assistance and Poor Relief Offices, pending the outcome of investigation by the Ministry of Social Security.

The items for which the Food Stamps can be exchanged will be printed on the stamps. Beneficiaries will be told how to use their stamps in the marketplace, and a new book will be issued only after two months have passed and on presentation of a completely-used book.

According to the Ministry Paper, shopkeepers will be informed of the procedures governing the Food Plan. On delivery of food items, the shopkeeper will remove the perforated end of the stamp and exchange for any of the foods listed on the stamp--cornmeal, rice and skimmed milk powder.

"The shopkeepers can not give cash as exchange and will redeem all vouchers for cash at the nearest commercial bank," the Ministry Paper said.

Commercial banks will be reimbursed by the Bank of Jamaica for such transactions.

Appointment of Director

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga announced yesterday that he has appointed the Minister of State, the Hon. Enid Bennett, to be responsible for the Government's Food Security Programme.

As a result of this, Miss Bennett will be transferred with immediate effect from the Ministry of Local Government to the Ministry of Social Security under which the Programme falls, a Jamaica House news release said.

Miss Bennett will also have portfolio responsibility for the Ministry's welfare matters including payments to indigent persons.

The Food Security Programme which was announced by the Prime Minister during his 1984/85 Budget presentation to Parliament last Thursday night (May 24) is to benefit one million persons, or a half of the total population. The annual cost of the Programme is \$113 million.

Speaking at the time of his announcement last week, Mr. Seaga said that the Government had recognised the urgency of the need to assist the very poor to meet the extra cost of living resultant from the measures being taken to enable the manufacturing sector to take advantage of the new export opportunities.

Government had also recognised that there were many young children, young people, pregnant and nursing mothers who would be nutritionally at risk if higher food prices made it impossible for them to continue to obtain the necessary quantities of food.

These are the bases on which the

Food Security Programme is structured.

The Ministry of Health is to assist the Ministry of Social Security in the execution of nutritional aspects of the Programme at Health Centres. The Ministry of Education will continue to operate the School Feeding programme which is to be expanded to 600,000 children from the present level of 100,000.

A monitoring committee will be established in each parish to ensure that all eligible persons are included as the supplies of food are enough to include all persons in the target categories.

Mr. Seaga had also informed the Parliament that the programme will, for the first time, ensure that all "nutritionally-at-risk" persons obtain at least a basic level of support to ensure their health and welfare.

Savings, Employment Benefits

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Jamaica is expected to save some US\$132 million when the Food Sufficiency Programme reaches its maximum level of production in the next four years, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said yesterday. In addition, some 17,000 new workers are to benefit from the employment opportunities to be created in the agriculture sector by the programme.

Mr. Seaga highlighted this while speaking at Jamaica House after signing a concessional loan agreement for US\$20 million, along with the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick; the United States Ambassador, His Excellency William Hewitt, and the US/AID Director, Mr. Lewis Reade.

The agreement, signed against the background of the Food Sufficiency Programme which the Prime Minister announced in his Budget presentation to Parliament last Thursday and which is designed to increase production so as to replace a number of imported basic food commodities, will provide the financing for the importation of some 95,600 metric tons of food items.

These items include 46,000 metric tons of wheat and wheat flour costing US\$8 million; 31,000 metric tons corn/sorghum costing US\$4.7 million; 2,000 metric tons edible vegetable oil for US\$1.6 million; 14,000 metric tons of rice costing US\$5 million and 2,600 metric tons blended fortified foods for US\$700,000.

The agreement is the fourth to be signed between the Government of Jamaica and the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) under the PL 480 Programme since 1981. The loan will be repaid in 15 equal instalments commencing six years after the last delivery date of the commodities and the initial interest rate will be 3 per cent per annum continuing up to a maximum of 4 per cent per annum.

The Food Sufficiency Programme under the umbrella of AGRO 21 and the Ministry of Agriculture is designed to reduce unemployment especially in the rural areas, to put idle hands to idle lands; and to produce, over the next four years, much of the basic food items that are now imported.

The subsequent reduction of imported basic food items and the consequent control over the country's own supplies of these items will minimise the extent to which the Jamaican economy will be susceptible to climatic and market conditions in other countries and which result in increased food prices in Jamaica.

The Prime Minister said that under the Food Sufficiency Programme, over the next four years beginning this year, Jamaica can expect to replace 75 per cent of the rice to be imported in 1987/88 as well as 45 percent of the imported soya; 124 per cent fish which will create a surplus for export; 98 per cent meat; 9 per cent dairy products and 31 per cent imported corn for animal feed which is to be replaced by locally cultivated cassava.

Expressing thanks, Mr. Seaga said he was pleased that the U.S. Government had found it possible to continue to provide support for the importation of basic food commodities while the Government creates and implements measures for the country to develop its capability to produce those items it can, so as to reduce reliance on imports over the years.

At the signing were the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Douglas Vaz; the Minister of State, Hon. Karl Samuda; the Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Robert Warne; and the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Don Brice.

Seaga Amplification

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said on Wednesday that the food aid programme scheduled to begin in June was not intended to provide a bellyful but aimed to provide enough nutrition to help keep the body healthy.

He was referring to comments that the \$10 per month which will be distributed under the programme was insufficient.

"The programme is not intended to be a bellyful. It is intended to provide enough nutrition so that you will be able to have the kind of nutritional food to help the body to keep healthy."

Mr. Seaga was speaking at a luncheon for Golden Agers at the St. Luke's Church Hall in Cross Roads. The luncheon is part of Poor Relief Week which is being celebrated from May 27 to June 2.

The value of the food aid programme, Mr. Seaga said, was not to be measured in terms of money but

in terms of the nutritional value.

He then explained how the programme would be administered. Each person who was eligible for aid under the programme would be given a booklet containing five tickets each valuing \$2. These booklets would be distributed every two months.

The Prime Minister said that every step was being taken to ensure that the programme is not abused by persons who should be getting aid under the programme. Everyone in the category of incomes below \$50 per week, pregnant mothers, and children in primary, comprehensive and new secondary schools would be assisted under the food aid programme. No one who was eligible would be excluded, Mr. Seaga said.

PSOJ Boost for Agriculture

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 May 84 p 12

[Text]

THE PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATION OF JAMAICA has given the the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick the assurance that it is prepared to give every assistance to

the development of the agricultural sector.

This assurance was given to the Minister, when the President of the PSOJ, Mr. Sam Mahfood, and the Chairman of the PSOJ's Agricultural Committee, Mr. Maurice Facey, met with the Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture on Thursday,

Dr. Broderick emphasised to the PSOJ team the Government's stated position that agriculture must be developed with greater private sector participation, but stressed that every consideration had to be given to the small farmers.

He said that AGRO-21 was already a structured programme and that the emphasis now was on the development of linkages of the small farmers into that programme.

The Minister discussed the concept of the Production Centres and the various models which were being developed. He cited the role of the Carreras Group of Companies among the tobacco farmers, as one model in which farmers could produce crops for which markets have already been identified, with the company providing inputs and extension, and taking over the centralized marketing of the produce. The PSOJ was invited by the Minister to study the proposals for Production Centres, with a view to recommending private sector management for any of the Centres to its members.

● The distribution of foodstuffs grown for the local market was also discussed, and the Minister pointed to work being done by the Ministry to reduce gluts in any one area, by better distributive practices.

● The PSOJ agreed to undertake a study to improve the links between areas of demand and areas of supply and create a better marketing mechanism for domestic food crop.

● The PSOJ were also invited to identify areas within the Ministry which it was felt could best be managed by the private sector. It was pointed out that the Ministry had limited technical and management resources and that this could be attributed to the Ministry's inability to compete with the pay package offered by the private sector.

● Dr. Broderick noted that the PSOJ had always mounted a strong lobby on behalf of the manufacturing and trading community, and invited the organisation to do the same on behalf of the agricultural community.

● The President of the PSOJ, Mr. Mahfood, expressed willingness to make the skills and expertise within his organisation available to assist in the continued expansion and development of the agricultural sector, and promised to do whatever was possible to assist the small farmer to greater productivity, greater earnings and a better standard of living.

Follow-up meetings have been planned for an agricultural team to complement the private sector team, for more detailed study of the proposals.

Sugar Prices

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 May 84 p 1

[Text] THE PRICE OF SUGAR (refined and brown) has been increased as from today. Brown sugar moves up from 72 cents per pound to 98 cents per pound, an increase of 36.1%. Refined sugar which was previously sold at \$1.32 cents per pound has been decontrolled, and is likely to move up by 20 percent to \$1.58 per pound.

The increases were announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, following a Cabinet decision last week. Dr. Broderick said that the increases had become necessary because of the removal of budgetary support from the sugar industry, with effect from April 1, 1984, and the higher costs arising from the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

The increased prices will not affect the price of condensed milk, for which new prices were recently settled, neither will refined sugar sold to manufacturers of sugar-based products for local consumption be affected, the Minister said.

The price of sugar was last increased in December 1982. At that time the Government said it was making a bid to sustain the sugar industry as "an important cornerstone of the Jamaican economy."

The following is the statement of the Minister:

"Effective immediately,

"(a) The price of brown sugar to consumers has been increased from 72¢ per lb. to 98¢ per lb.

"(b) The price of refined sugar to the trade has been increased from \$2,512.56 per ton to \$2,989.68 per ton. Refined sugar has been removed from price controls and is presently being sold to consumers at \$1.32 per lb.

"(c) the price of refined sugar to export manufacturers has been increased from \$910 per ton to \$1,150 per ton, to bring the price in line with the present cost of imported refined sugar.

"The increased prices will not affect the price of condensed milk for which new prices were only recently settled. Neither will they affect the price of refined sugar sold to the manufacturers of sugar based products for local consumption in order to improve the competitive position of these manufacturers.

"The increases in sugar prices have become necessary because of the removal of budgetary support for the industry with effect from the 1st April, 1984, and higher costs attendant on the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

"The Industry had previously announced a rationalisation programme designed to increase efficiency through the removal of surplus factory capacity and the streamlining of its man-power requirements."

CSO: 3298/888

KINGSTON VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO HAVE WIDE SPILLOVER

PNP Reply to Seaga

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Text] The People's National Party has said it is prepared to resume discussions on ways to curb political violence in the country, on Tuesday as proposed by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga.

In a letter to Mr. Seaga, the P.N.P. General Secretary, Dr. Paul Roberts, while re-affirming the party's decision to reconvene the discussions on political violence, took issue with the statement by Mr. Seaga that "these bi-partisan talks had not been discontinued."

Dr. Robertson said that while he contracted Mr. Bruce Golding of the J.L.P. on March 27 concerning resuming the talks, as mandated by the P.N.P. Executive and officers, no firm date was fixed as Mr. Golding undertook to get back to him on the matter.

When he made telephone contact with Mr. Golding on May 9, although Mr. Golding was personally ready he did not seem to have the mandate of his party to resume official talks on violence.

Consequently no date was set for a future meeting.

Manley Call for Commission

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 May 84 p 3

[Text]

The President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, has written to the Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party, Mr. Edward Seaga, urging that he set up a Commission of Enquiry into the Rema violence.

The Commission, he said, "should involve persons of the greatest possible stature and accepted probity and impartiality; should be given to the widest possible terms of reference to inquire into all aspects of the matter."

Mr. Manley said: "Failure to provide an opportunity for the fullest ventilation of this terrible affair would be extremely bad for Jamaica and for public confidence in the Security Forces, their direction and the relationship between the political directorate and the police authorities".

Seven persons were killed in the violence which involved the Western Kingston communities of Rema, Rose Town and Tivoli Gardens some two weeks ago.

Security Spending Increase

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 May 84 p 3

[Text] National Security and Justice is the Ministry with the third largest budget. In 1984/85 it plans to go through \$329 million of which \$182 million will be used on the Police and another \$92 million on the J.D.F.

The police appear to come out better than the J.D.F. Their total wage bill moves up from \$105 to \$130 million but an unusually large amount of this increase will go to the Special Constables, Parish and District Constables as well as to the Immigration and Passport Officers. Almost \$8 million in the capital budget goes to purchase new vehicles and spare parts for the Police. (The J.D.F. only get \$700,000 to purchase equipment.)

The J.D.F. budget allows an increase of about \$9 million or 20 per cent in the J.D.F. wage bill but includes very large cut-backs in other operating and maintenance costs. It is not possible from the budget to deduce how much has been spent in the Grenada operation by the J.D.F. and one wonders under which expenditure heading this cost is hidden.

Private Sector Role

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 May 84 p 3

[Text] Political leaders should be told now that action was needed now, to bring in illegal guns, and the hands of the police should not be tied, President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), Mr. Sam Mahfood, said yesterday.

To a standing ovation and prolonged applause, the private sector leader, in closing his guest address at the 40th annual joint central conference of the Police Federation at the Government Conference Centre, downtown Kingston, told some 250 delegates present:

"I believe we need to send a loud and clear message to our political leaders that we need action now to remove illegal guns from our society, and that the police must have a free hand to bring in the guns. I think, if necessary, we should back up this position with the threat that we, the law abiding citizens of this country, will not be prepared to give political support--monetary or otherwise--to politicians and political parties who continue to harbour and retain the services of gunmen. We need also to give our support for the police in their efforts to get rid of the illegal guns.

"Mr. Chairman, without wishing to sound as an alarmist, I believe that time is fast running out for us, and if we fail to take decisive action now, we might find that the situation is out of control and will overwhelm us all. We cannot live like ostriches, hiding our heads in the sand. We as a country must face the truth and don't lie to ourselves about the illegal guns."

Mr. Mahfood said the PSQJ would continue to work with the police to improve the image of the Force, and the relations between citizens and the police.

"This is a forum for plain talk and I would be less than honest if I did not tell you that at times the actions of the police contribute to the attitude that the public takes towards them," he said.

There was a time, not long ago, when the policeman was a model in society, respected by everyone. But this had changed.

"I recognise that since those days our society has become a great deal more violent, that we have produced a new breed of young criminals who fear neither God nor man. I am not a sociologist, and I am therefore not prepared to go into an analysis of what created this upsurge in violence, but I do feel that some of the blame for the lack of respect for the police force must be placed on the behaviour of some policemen."

Mr. Mahfood said this behaviour was limited to a few members of the Force, but the negative image created affected all members of the Force.

However, this negative image could be corrected through positive actions. He suggested that policemen, working with youth groups, could exert a powerful influence for good on the youngsters. They should publicise more what they were doing in community work, not only with the youth, but other work being done in communities. For example, the Force had a first-class musical band. The increase in publicity would be short-term measures but long-term measures were also there.

Long-term measures, he suggested, could include the Federation reconsidering its position on a Citizens Complaints Board.

Mr. Mahfood said: "Some of the hostility that is displayed towards the police today is caused by the fact that people feel that if they are wronged by the police, they have no means of having that wrong corrected."

He felt such a Board would be useful, not only to the public but the police, as it could cut down on public hostility to the police.

"The Citizens' Complaints Board can play a vital role in maintaining the general efficiency of the police force. We feel that this board should be able to investigate and refer bona fide complaints made against the police, and after discussing them with the Commissioner of Police, should submit a report to the Police Services Commission and the Minister of National Security. This report should be tabled in Parliament and published."

Mr. Mahfood said another long-term strategy could be to improve the image of the Force in the area of training and recruitment.

"We feel that young people should have a career choice to join the police Force in the same way that they make other career choices, and should not, as so

often, enter the Force because they can't find anything better to do. If this is to happen, the pay and the possibility for career development within the Force must be attractive to young people."

Mr. Mahfood also suggested more Citizens/Police Committees, which in 1980 the PSQJ had found to be "extremely useful" in creating civic support for the work of the police.

He said the police would never be able to effectively control the criminal element unless it received the support of law-abiding citizens.

Those who believe in law and order, and are against criminals, had to realize that it was unfair to ask the police to face danger daily on their behalf, if they were unprepared to support the police.

Mr. Mahfood said: "Those of us who are aware of where guns are hidden, and of the existence of gunmen, and remain silent, are endangering our own lives. The criminal element, we need to be aware, cannot take refuge in a community unless the members of that community who are aware of their existence, condone their actions.

"Take the example of gun violence, whether it is politically motivated or not. I am convinced that there are people who are aware of the perpetrators of these acts, but who, possibly because of fear, choose to remain silent.

"I regard the threat of violence--political or otherwise--as the greatest danger that can destroy all the efforts that are being made to revive the economy. I do not think we can expect the police to face this danger alone. We often fail to realize that this violence, if unchecked, feeds like a cancer on itself until it gets to the point where it dominates all of us, or all of us are asked to surrender our freedoms to bring it under control."

CSO: 3298/886

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL SURVEY SHOWS GROWTH RATE OF 1.8 PERCENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 May 84 p 3

[Text]

THERE WAS a 1.8 per cent growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last year "in spite of the fact that the recovery experienced by most developed nations did not have a significantly positive impact on the Jamaica economy," according to the "Economic and Social Survey Jamaica, 1983" which was tabled in the House of Representatives, yesterday.

The Survey said that, though moderate, the growth rate was the second highest in over a decade and was a continuation of the growth trend established in 1981.

On the demand side, the expansion in real exports of goods and services appeared to have contributed to this real growth, the Survey said. The US\$ value of exports fell during the year, but much of that was due to declining prices for alumina.

Alumina production grew in 1983 with the mining sector enjoying a one per cent increase in real GDP, although earnings fell by 17.7 per cent over 1982. Agricultural GDP grew vigorously benefiting in parts from the commencement of Agro 21.

Two other major sectors of the economy, Manufacturing and Construction, both experienced healthy growth rates in the neighbourhood of 3 per cent.

The average employment level was 25,000 higher than the corresponding level for 1982, with the average rate of unemployment declining from 27.4 per cent to 26.4 per cent. After an initial decline of 5,800 for the October, 1982 to April, 1983 period, the labour force expanded by

40,200 in the ensuing six months to stand at 1,019,900 by October, 1983. This constituted an overall increase of 1.1 per cent over the review period.

For the October, 1982 to April, 1983 period, the increase in the employment level and the decline in the labour force led to the decline in the unemployment rate of 2 percentage points, from 27.9 per cent to 25.9 per cent per cent between October, 1982 and April, 1983. By October, however, due to the sizeable increase in the labour force, and despite the continued expansion in employment, the rate had climbed to 26.9 per cent.

In order to contain inflation and to reduce the demand for foreign exchange for consumer purposes, the Government maintained its policy of tight credit, constraining the increase in the money supply (M1) to only four per cent. Liquidity ratios were increased in an attempt to reduce the demand for money particularly for speculation.

Nominal gross fixed capital formation continued to grow rapidly during the year, rising from its 1982 level of \$1,173 million to a 1983 level of \$1,414 million, an increase of 20 per cent. This growth pushed up the share of gross investment in total GDP to 20.9 per cent, its highest level in eight years. The contributory factors include stronger housing demand, low real interest rates and healthy levels of credit for industrial expansion.

The Survey said that the growth rate in investment would have been higher were it not for constrained levels of capital goods imports.

Note: For an overview, or summary, of the Survey findings please turn to page 11.

CSO: 3298/887

SEAGA ANNOUNCES PLAN TO ESTABLISH NEW FACTORIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 May 84 p 3

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT is to commence this year a record one million square feet factory building programme to accommodate new investment projects, Prime Minister Edward Seaga told the House of Representatives on Thursday.

Speaking in the budget debate, Mr. Seaga said that new investments continued unabated. Some 251 new investment projects had been established since the JNIP commenced operations two and a half years ago — a rate of two new investments every week. This has gone up since the beginning of 1984 to three investments per week.

The capital investment involved is \$360 million. Some 7,363 workers had been employed so far with a maximum of 12,000 additional jobs to come in the same investments as they grow to their production targets. He said that local projects numbered 150, foreign 71, joint ventures 30.

"The investments have spread to every parish and in fact, unbelievably, from a list of 80.

agricultural and agnbusiness projects outnumber manufacturing 92 to 84. Among the total of 251 new investments to April, 1984, are 21 small business projects, the result of a special unit established to assist the small business sector.

"This year promises to be a bumper year as the JNIP establishes an office in the Far East and intensifies its efforts in North America. I am also to make a visit to London soon to hold final discussions with some 20 potential investors in the United Kingdom which are the final selectees

"To accommodate the expected boom, Government will commence this year a record factory building programme of nearly one million square feet-by far the largest ever constructed in a single year in the history of the country. Actually, during the quarter January to March, 1984, over 524,000 square feet were requested of the JNIP by investors. These factories will not be confined to Kingston and St. Andrew; they will be located in 11 parishes," Mr. Seaga said.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES DIVESTMENT OF BANANA PROJECTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

Banana-growing projects and 11 boxing plants on farms owned and managed by the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Jamaica Development Bank (JDB), as well as boxing plants owned by the Banana Company of Jamaica, are to be divested as a matter of urgency.

Ministry Paper Number 34 tabled in the House of Representatives last night by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Percy Broderick, said the :

"The Cabinet decided on the 19th March, 1984, that the Divestment Committee should be instructed to negotiate the contractual arrangements for the divestment of the banana growing projects and the eleven boxing plants on these farms, and also to agree to the divestment of the boxing plants owned by the Banana Company of Jamaica Limited. The Divestment Committee was also authorised to obtain legal assistance in order to enable it to conclude the negotiations as a matter of urgency.

"In addition to this, the Cabinet further decided that the Divestment Committee should be requested to appoint a Sub-Committee comprised of members of the Agro 21 Secretariat and the Ministry of Agriculture, to review the applications received and to make recommendations accordingly to the Divestment Committee.

"The Commissioner of Lands has been requested to undertake a valuation of the projects. Already the company has received 25 applications for the divestment of EDF and JDB projects. These applications will be referred to the Divestment Committee for a decision."

The Ministry Paper said that the banana growing projects were established in 1974, to facilitate the cultivation and production of bananas for export by the Banana Board. It was anticipated that modern agronomic techniques of the Board would serve as an example to private growers.

"Regrettably, neither the Banana

Board nor the re-organised Banana Company of Jamaica Limited was able to realize these objectives," the Ministry Paper said.

"Actual operating costs per acre were approximately \$2,200 against the projected costs of \$600 per acre. Higher costs coupled with low production volumes resulted in a negative financial situation. These projects have had a debilitating effect on the Company and has hindered the Company's ability to sustain financial viability."

It was in the light of that situation that the decision was taken by the Cabinet to divest the projects.

The Banana Company of Jamaica currently owns 32 public boxing plants. However, those plants will be divested and already one at Morant Bay St. Thomas which was financed by the Caribbean Development Bank has been sold to the Eastern Banana Estates Limited.

CSO: 3298/889

SUGAR FACTORIES WILL CONVERT TO PRIVATE OPERATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Jun 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The three publicly-owned sugar factories — Frome, Monymusk and Bernard Lodge — operated by the National Sugar Company and which were not earmarked for closure at the end of the 1983/84 sugar crop, are to be placed under private management, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, said in the House of Representatives last night.

Full details of the arrangements will be announced shortly, the Minister told the House, adding that Long Pond, one of the three factories previously earmarked for closure and which has shown "remarkable recovery" since the NSC announcement on April 13, of its intention to close the factory, would be included in the new arrangement.

Dr. Broderick, who was making his contribution to the Budget Debate, said that the Board of the debt-ridden NSC had met and had reviewed the Company's projections over three years. Those projections revealed that even at new cane and sugar prices, supported by a capital programme estimated to cost \$75 million, the group would still incur losses of \$123 million over the three-year period 1983/84 to 1985/86 if it operated all its entities.

Dr. Broderick then said: "The Government in reviewing the matter of the financial and organisational restructuring of the industry has decided to operate four public-enterprise factories — including Long Pond — on a totally restructured basis under new management ... They will be 'privatised' and full details will be announced shortly.

CSO: 3298/889

BANANA ASSOCIATION DISCUSSES PLANS FOR EXPANSION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 84 p 28

[Text]

The Jamaica Banana Producers Association Ltd. plans to establish a banana estate of over 1,000 acres at Agualta Vale and neighbouring farms in St. Mary and put an additional 2,000 acres of land on the Eastern Banana Estates into cultivation.

Dr. Marshall Hall, Group Managing Director of JBPA Ltd. made this announcement on Tuesday at a luncheon which his company held at the Terra Nova Hotel, New Kingston to launch the book "Jamaica's Banana Industry".

This book which outlines the history of the banana industry from the rise of the co-operative principle to the present, was researched and compiled by Mr. Theodore Sealy, C.B.E., former Editor of *The Daily Gleaner* and Mr. Herbert Hart, a former member of the JBPA. It has been edited by historian Clinton Black. Mr. G.W.N. Downer, Chairman of the company,

spoke at the launching about the material covered in the book and presented copies of "Jamaica's Banana Industry" to Mr. John Aarons, Acting Director of the National Library of Jamaica, for distribution to libraries.

Dr. Hall gave a brief historical sketch of the banana industry before speaking of his company's plans for development of a banana estate at Agualta Vale.

"We are now concluding negotiations with the Government of Jamaica for the establishment of a banana estate of over 1,000 acres at Agualta Vale and neighbouring farms in St. Mary", he said. The new estate will be "a modern banana farm similar in style to the Eastern Banana Estates", Dr. Hall added.

He also said, "As further indication of our faith in the Jamaican banana industry, we have confirmed to the Government our inten-

tion to maintain our shareholding in the expanded Eastern Banana Estates which is scheduled to be increased from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres."

Other development plans and achievements were outlined by Dr. Hall.

Jamaican produce - yams, dasheens, cocos, June plums, melons, mangos, pumpkins - valued at \$1,000,000 were imported into the U.K. last year by Sunburst Commodity Trading Company Ltd., a new firm established by JBPA Ltd.

This company hopes to send agricultural produce \$1.5 million in value to the U.K. this year.

Having exported 8,000 cartons of mangos to the U.K. in 1983, the company expects to export 12,000 cartons in 1984.

"We have also developed a modest market for our own grapefruit and shipments are now running at approximately 1,000 boxes per

week", Dr. Hall added.

He also said that the JBPA Ltd. was establishing its "own mango orchard of over 100 acres approximately 40 of which have already been planted." Moreover, the company has long-term plans to develop "at least 500 acres of mango orchards" while "plans are also well advanced for the establishment of 100 acres of pawpaws."

Fletcher Bowman Ltd, a food processing firm which Producers "recently acquired a significant interest" in, "will soon be producing banana chips primarily for the export market", Dr. Hall said. "The banana chip for the export market is a sweet banana chip as opposed to the salt banana chip consumed locally", he pointed out.

Fletcher Bowman Ltd. has "already identified the market for the sweet banana chip and will stress exports of this and its traditional line of products", Dr. Hall said.

SEAGA RULES OUT EARLY ELECTION, WILL SERVE 5-YEAR TERM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 May 84 p 3

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said Thursday that his government intends to serve the five-year term to which it was elected in December, 1983, until it considered the time appropriate to call new elections.

"This Government was re-elected in December, 1983 for a new five-year term and intends to serve that term until it considers the time appropriate to call General Elections," Mr. Seaga said in his budget speech in the House of Representatives.

The Prime Minister told the House:

"This debate is taking place against a mandate of a new five-year term of office to which government was re-elected in December, 1983.

"The major opposition party did not take part. If they had, they would have won additional seats, but they would have lost the election and could have

had nothing more to say.

"By not taking part they hope to convince others that the election was not genuine and that new elections must be called early to give them a chance to participate.

"If what they say were to be accepted, then an opposition party in the future could refuse to take part in an election, declare the results to be bogus, and agitate for new elections when the opposition considers the time to be right and in its interest to hold an election.

"If that view was accepted, no government would be able to call an election unless the opposition was ready and agreed. An opposition could then afford to spend much of its term ill-prepared, as the last opposition party did, knowing that it could block the holding of an election until it was ready.

"In such an event, the losers would be the people who depend on the opposition to be alert, active and available at all times to voice their points of view.

"The reason why our constitution allows the calling of an election at any time, is to put the opposition under constant pressure to perform so that it will be active at all times.

"I warn those who propose or support the misguided principles being advanced in the name of democracy that they tread on a ground so dangerous that it would destroy the two-party system of democracy that we know.

"For whatever position one opposition party takes in regards to whether it participates or not in general elections, so can another. And if a one-sided result is deemed to be bogus once, it can be deemed to be bogus again and

again in future elections, until we destroy our two-party system.

"The Jamaica Labour Party, when in opposition, was urged by many in 1976 not to participate in the General Elections of that year in view of the existence of the State of Emergency. If ever there was good reason to refuse to participate in a General Election, it was then, when oppression ruled the land, and my supporters and frontline workers were detained or under threat of detention.

"But we did not withdraw. We did our duty: got the worst political beating in our history: Went back to work from 8 a.m. the morning after the election when I arrived at JLP headquarters and summoned my team to re-organise. We waited our turn until Government called elections and we won."

TEXT OF MINISTRY PAPER ON NATION'S FOREIGN POLICY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 May 84 pp 11, 14

[Text]

Ministry Paper No: 32 entitled 'overview of international political affairs' was tabled in the House yesterday by the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, Minister of External Affairs.

It states: In the past year the international community has seen an escalation of conflicts; a deepening of the cold war; an arms race spiral, and state-controlled international terrorism. Regional and international organizations have been prompt in their assistance of refugees from strife-torn countries. They have failed, however, to play an effective role in crisis control and resolution and the defusing of potentially dangerous situations. The United Nations Security Council, for example, with its mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security, frequently finds its hands tied by the veto exercised by a permanent member. Its resolutions are often flouted. General Assembly efforts have spawned contentious debates and resulted in resolutions of limited political impact. Regional organizations are similarly plagued by inability to act decisively in crisis where vital interests of influential members are involved. The question of security, both national and global, is of primary concern in a situation where multilateral organizations are failing to act decisively for conflict resolution and where their authority seems to be gradually eroding.

2. Conflicts particularly in the Horn of Africa, Western Sahara, Chad and Southern Africa continue to defy efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to resolve them. These conflicts assume added significance as development is retarded while scarce resources are diverted towards military expenditures. Of these conflicts the most intractable is the situation in Southern Africa. Over the last eighteen years the apartheid regime in Pretoria has frustrated the legitimate aspirations of the people of Namibia for self-determination and independence, in defiance of the will of the international community and with

contemptuous disregard of the resolutions and decisions of the International Court of Justice, the UN, the OAU, and the NAM.

Using a combination of military, economic and political pressure, South Africa intensified its strategy of destabilization of its neighbours, whose position was already made vulnerable by prolonged drought and severe food shortages. It thus achieved the signature of security and co-operation agreements with two of its most hostile neighbours — Angola and Mozambique. South Africa seems bent on ignoring the proposals of the Contact Group, which were adopted by the UN Security Council Resolution 435, for — *inter alia* — the cessation of hostilities in Namibia, the withdrawal of South Africa troops from the territory and the holding of free elections under the auspices of the UN Transitional Assistance Group, and Namibia's independence. Its strategy of circumventing the UN and releasing Namibia on its own terms must not be allowed to succeed.

3. In Asia, hostilities continue to flare up between China, permanent member of the Security Council, and Vietnam whose military adventurism complicates an already difficult situation in Kampuchea. The military intervention of another permanent member of the Security Council, the USSR, in Afghanistan has not only also incapacitated international organizations for any meaningful action of this conflict. Increased tension in the Korean peninsula and inconclusive efforts for reunification of the two Koreas are a further cause of concern. These conflicts threaten the integral security of the Asian states and weaken the thrust towards the strengthening of South-South co-operation, to which many of these countries are committed.

4. The escalation of the crisis situation in the Middle East is largely a consequence of the serious erosion of power and influence in the UN in respect of the discharge of its primary function of maintaining international peace and security. This crisis is perhaps the most difficult test of the UN's ability to fulfil this role and has dramatised the

limitations and weaknesses of the UN peace-keeping operations and related peace-making efforts. The frequency of resort to force and the flagrant disregard of the UN by certain countries have undermined UN initiatives for peace in the area. Too often is the Security Council used as an instrument of last resort and presented with faits accomplis.

5. At the core of the crisis remains the Palestinian question, unresolved despite multilateral efforts and the formulation of various Middle East peace proposals. The intransigence of certain of the parties concerned and the territories have impaired efforts towards a peaceful solution. Tensions in the area have been made more acute by the dangerous situation in Lebanon and alarming developments in the Gulf War. These issues not only threaten to engulf the entire region, but because of the intricate linkages of these states to powers external to the zone, have the potential for a widespread conflagration. Efforts for the reduction of the crisis in Lebanon are underway as are efforts to contain the war between Iran and Iraq. These efforts are largely taking place outside the ambit of the United Nations.

6. Our own region, Latin America and the Caribbean, also remains an important area of conflict. Unresolved border and territorial disputes, years of political, economic and social injustices in a number of countries and unprecedented economic crisis, ideological conflict and East/West rivalry have sown the seeds of conflict in our region; and Central America remains the principal threat to our regional peace and security. In the light of the inability of both the OAS and the United Nations to respond effectively to a rapidly deteriorating situation the peace initiative launched by the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) in 1983 is particularly important. Although the crisis still remains potentially dangerous, the Contadora effort has scored a significant success in bringing the Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) to the negotiating table. The Cancun Declaration by the Presidents of the four Contadora countries on 17th July, 1983, provides a sound basis for peace in the area and resulted in the adoption of the 21-point Document of Objectives. This Document was approved by all five Central American States and is regarded as a single consensus text. It recognises that the Central American situation is a complex one requiring a global rather than a piece-meal solution. It calls for the commitment of all parties to a peaceful and lasting solution of the problems of the area and it emphasizes that the cessation of external interference in the conflict is indispensable. Sufficient time and firm and unequivocal international support should be given to the Contadora initiative to enable the achievement of just and lasting solutions in this region.

7. Events in the Eastern Caribbean during last October had regional and international repercussions. The developments in Grenada escalated so

rapidly that notwithstanding the fears which had been growing in the Eastern Caribbean everyone was taken by surprise. The situation that erupted in Grenada demanded a rapid response. The rescue mission which was launched by members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean states with the support of Barbados, United States of America and Jamaica, produced sharp differences of view within CARICOM itself, and was also criticised internationally. The circumstances were unfortunate, but it is clear that the mission was welcomed by the people of Grenada who are now in the process of restoring normality in their country. The matter was debated in great detail at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Delhi last November, and in their Communique, the Heads Government agreed that the emphasis should be placed on reconstruction, not recrimination and they confirmed their readiness to give sympathetic consideration to requests for assistance from Grenada.

8. Jamaica will continue to provide within its means whatever assistance is required by Grenada as it strives to rebuild its economy and the democratic processes that its people aspire to in common with their CARICOM brothers.

9. Despite the differences and tensions, there have been positive developments in our region. Democracy in Latin America was strengthened by the December 1983 installation of a democratically elected government in Argentina. Ecuador will soon swear in its second democratically elected President since its return to democracy in 1979. Presidential elections were also recently held in Panama and El Salvador, and it is interesting to note that the Nicaraguan Government has announced the holding of elections later this year. Another positive trend is the collaboration among countries of our region for the resolution of economic problems under the aegis of the OAS, SELA and ECLA.

10. Nonetheless, the success of such efforts regionally and globally assumes an international climate in which massive resources are not diverted to the arms trade. The prevailing climate is one which has seen a growth in Third World military expenditure, the pace of which is proportionately faster than that of the industrialized North. A massive increase in military expenditure by the NATO countries is regarded as an appropriate response to Soviet bloc capabilities. The work of the UN Committee on Disarmament makes progress only on those issues which are not central to East/West defence strategies and even this is slow. The START negotiations have broken down and those concerning Euro-missiles have shown no real progress, the fate of these bi-polar negotiations reflecting a retreat from detente. The confrontational nature of East-West relations has generated a resurgence of the arms race, thereby contributing to the deepening of the international economic crisis and to the gravity of many conflicts.

11. It is in such a context that the Non-Aligned Movement, as originally conceived, can play a positive role acting as an independent force in

international relations. Yet the NAM's unity and cohesion has itself been threatened by increased external pressures and by strife and conflicts among some of its members. Against this background, the successful staging of the 7th summit Conference in Delhi last year was a significant achievement, though deep divisions on concern contentious issues remain. There is hope that under India's chairmanship the NAM will maintain the trend towards relative independence vis-a-vis the super-powers so as not to be diverted from its original principles and objectives and thus be able to contribute to a reduction of international tensions.

12. Jamaica is aware that the strength of our international and regional organizations is largely dependent on the political will, commitment and support of their members. We consider it urgent that Member States review these organizations, and particularly the United Nations, in light of their decreasing ability to influence the resolution of conflicts. We are concerned that the United Nations should be strengthened for the performance of its primary role, which is the maintenance of international peace and security. Mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes must be improved. The United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council, must examine the functioning of peacekeeping operations to ensure their effectiveness.

13. Our fundamental positions on international issues such as the Middle East, Southern Africa, the Central American crisis, respect for human rights and the principles of the United Nations Charter, remain unchanged.

14. Despite our understanding of the situation which led the Governments of Angola and Mozambique to

reach agreement with South Africa, we will continue our support of United Nations resolutions and actions for the eradication of the apartheid regime. We remain fully committed to the independence of Namibia and reject the view that this must be conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

15. With regard to the Middle East, Jamaica believes that given the complex and deep-rooted nature of the issues involved, the United Nations remains the best forum for negotiating an equitable and lasting solution to the conflict. We view with deep regret and concern the current escalation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. Jamaica would urge both countries to speedily end their hostilities and seek a negotiated settlement of this dispute. We would also appeal to them to observe the international rules and conventions regarding the protection of civilian populations, the treatment of prisoners and prohibiting the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases as well as of bacteriological methods of warfare.

16. The crisis in Central America, we believe,

can best be resolved on the basis of the peace initiative of the Contadora Group. Jamaica supports the framework established in the Cancun Declaration as well as the subsequently adopted 21-point Document of Objectives.

17. We are concerned that the increasing tension between the super-powers has made conflicts among smaller states more likely and more frequent. We would urge a return to the principles of detente. Jamaica firmly supports the recent Joint Declaration of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania for a reversal of the nuclear arms race; for detente and international co-operation. We believe that both super-powers should immediately resume negotiations for a reduction of nuclear weapons and that such reduction should be monitored by an effective system of verification.

18. In the NAM, Jamaica will continue to work for the return of the Movement to its original principles. We believe that under India's leadership, the attainment of this objective will be facilitated.

19. At the bilateral level we shall continue to foster closer relations for the strengthening of democracy in our region and for the mutual advantage of our peoples. Our relations with other countries will continue to be guided by the principles of friendly relations among states, our policy for strengthening cooperation with other developing countries and for deepening existing friendly relations.

BRIEFS

JLP-PNP TALKS--Kingston, Thurs., (CANA)--Prime Minister Edward Seaga has proposed that the general secretaries of his ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the Opposition People's National Party (PNP) resume inter-party discussions next Tuesday on curbing political violence. The talks between the JLP's Bruce Golding and the PNP's Dr Paul Robertson would finalise proposals which could form the basis of an early meeting between the top leadership between both parties. PNP leader Michael Manley last week wrote to Seaga calling for an urgent resumption of the talks, which he said had been broken off last December's general elections, boycotted by the PNP. Manley's call for a return to the discussions followed recent violence in Western Kingston between JLP elements, which he said was a reminder that the kind of inter-party violence that characterised the country during election year 1980 could return to Jamaica. Seaga responding to Manley said that contrary to the impression that had been created, the talks which had started in January 1983 had not been discontinued, and that both Golding and Robertson had been in contact. As recently as May 3 the JLP, had expressed its desire to continue the dialogue, Seaga said. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/858

PRI ELECTORAL DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES TAKE UP REFORM ISSUES

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 21 May 84 p 18-A

[Text] Mexico City, 20 May--The Institutional Revolutionary Party should publicly expel members of the political body who engage in dishonest and corrupt acts.

It also needs to modify its basic instruments with a view to adapting them to the realities of the country and it has to root out the appointment of candidates "from the center" of the nation.

In addition the PRI should undergo structural reforms because "it has lagged behind the demands of the inhabitants of the country."

It should end the ill-fated practice of cronyism and favoritism "so that the candidates will be representatives of the community rather than discredited politicians and will become more aggressive in waving the banners of housing for the people, the struggle against shortages, the fight against inflation and others."

These were the main points that hundreds of PRI members took up in the assemblies held in the 300 electoral districts into which the country is divided. Preparatory meetings were held there for the 12th National Assembly.

In addition to the aforementioned demands, others that were made include the following:

Changes in the program of action, some of whose sections are confusing, so that popular demands will become the fundamental platform of the party.

More participation by women in political work. There was a difference of opinions on the elimination of ANFER [National Women's Revolutionary Group], since in some states this organization was defended and in others, women were asked to participate in the party's work through the three factions that comprise the party.

Genuine preelectoral assemblies, without prior approval of recommendations or candidates. Boards in which the community decides who will be their candidates for popularly elected posts.

No to the proposal to change the Institutional Revolutionary Party's name. "The political transformation of the country is not achieved by altering the facade of the party," said Moises Jimenez Correa in Villahermosa, Tabasco.

Strict extension of the statutes so that the party will not remain silent in cases of corruption among its members.

When this happens, the PRI, irrespective of criminal action that may be taken, should publicly expel the undesirable elements.

Address the concerns of 35 million Mexicans under 15 years of age, bearing in mind that the future of the country is in their hands. That is to say, provide greater incentives for political work among young people's groups.

The PRI meetings were held in the Federal District and throughout the country, and they were attended by previously-designated federal officials, state and municipal officials, party leaders from all levels and representatives of the three factions of the party.

The common denominator of the assemblies in the 300 electoral districts was the participation of the rank and file of the party, who freely expressed their points of view. They often vigorously criticized the systems followed by the party, which they accused of being behind the times, full of vices and recently, in the hands of a few politicians who have used it to satisfy their personal ambitions for power.

12351

CSO: 3248/654

CHURCH STUDY: 'WORRISOME' NUMBER OF NICARAGUAN IMMIGRANTS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 May 84 pp 5-A, 6-A

[Text] In an extensive analysis of the Central American refugees arriving in Mexico, the Mexican Episcopate states that there are about 200,000 refugees here who are in a permanent state of crisis, to many of whom no one is extending a helping hand. The report indicates that the "number of Nicaraguans who continuously infiltrate into our country is beginning to be worrisome."

A document released by the Center of Research and Social Improvement also states that the Mexican Episcopate observers have seen "up to 20 refugees living in a 12 square meter room in a state of absolute poverty, indiscriminately mingled."

It said that they are unemployed, victims of worker exploitation, and increasing numbers of young women arrive alone in the country, with absolutely no protection, which compels them to accept any job, even prostitution, in order to survive.

The document states that a serious problem of those seeking asylum in Mexico is that "legally there are no political refugees since our country has not signed the 1951 Convention nor the 1967 Protocol on this matter" and that the clergy observers have previously noted this.

They add that frequently there are cases of persons who are subjected to exploitation, extortion and beatings because they do not have their papers in order.

It says that only slightly more than 40,000 Guatemalan refugees resettled in the Campeche area receive help from the Mexican Government and people through the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The others live in fear of being arrested.

It states that the members of this latter group are exploited on coffee plantations or live in the brink of destitution in cities where they cannot find work which will allow them to live decently.

It says that at present it is difficult to decide if the person is an economic or a political immigrant and that the Interior Ministry authorities usually classify persons located in Chiapas without papers as political and those located elsewhere in the country as economic immigrants and frequently deports them.

The analysis reports that the number of Salvadorans is estimated at between 80,000 and 110,000 and that they are in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

9204

CSO: 3248/644

COMAR REPORT: ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF GUATEMALAN REFUGES

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 May 84 pp 19-A, 36-A

[Article by Rogelio Hernandez]

[Text] Of all the Guatemalans who may be relocated from Chiapas to other parts of the country, only 13 out of every 100 are mestizos, while the rest belong to at least 7 culturally distinct ethnic groups. This, according to the Mexican Commission on Refugee Assistance, the corresponding UN commission and the Human Rights Commission of Guatemala, constitutes an additional concern that another type of crisis not be provoked among them because of cultural disintegration.

The most recent report by COMAR [Mexican Commission on Refugee Assistance], which is in the hands of officials of the Secretariat of the Interior, exhaustively lists the number of refugees in the 6 municipalities and 86 camps, as well as their region of origin in the neighboring country. It also stresses their fundamentally peasant and indigenous idiosyncrasies.

A census was taken of the groups, with their different languages, customs and economic habits, by COMAR specialists, as follows:

Kanjobals, 50.29 percent; Mams, 18.18 percent; Kekchis, 6.57 percent; Kalchikels, 0.53 percent; Chujs, 5.21 percent; Quiches, 3.34 percent; Jacaltecos, 2.04 percent; and mestizos, 13.8 percent.

Of all of them, less than half speak Spanish, and very poorly. However, the number who speak only their own language or dialect exceeds 15,000 people.

The COMAR experts who conducted the studies of the refugees also presented a map showing that the absolute majority of the Guatemalans residing in camps in Mexico come from the highlands of Guatemala, more specifically the rural areas of Peten, Huehuetenango, Kiche and Alta Verapaz.

Another piece of information that the COMAR officials included in their report was that the refugees' settlement in camps allowed them to preserve to a great extent, their natural and cultural patterns of behavior. This is because they were placed in areas with basically the same kind of climate flora and were together with people from the same ethnic groups.

Consequently, one of the concerns is to avoid the disintegration of the groups and to discourage any decline in or loss of their way of life or their culture.

NAFINSA OFFICIAL: CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRY IN NEED OF CREDITS

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 19 May 84 p 1-B

[Article by Francisco Duran]

[Text] Ernesto Marcos, assistant director of NAFINSA [National Finance Bank, Inc], said yesterday that financing is one of the main problems of the capital goods industry in Mexico.

"During this crisis period new mechanisms have been designed which are being used to meet those credit requirements."

In a conference organized by the Chamber of Industry and Transformation and the Higher School of Economics of the UANL [Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon], held in the Industrial Club, Marcos spoke to a group of businessmen and economists on "Financing for Industry, Capital Goods and Their Outlook."

He noted that the crisis has shown us that we have the installed capacity to produce many things.

As an example he said that PEMEX, in 1981-82, imported 70 percent of its equipment and produced the other 30 percent.

Now a policy will be applied in order to attempt to import as little as possible and to produce as much as possible inside the country, thus avoiding the foreign exchange drain.

He asserted that a responsible, integral vision of the capital goods industry requires an examination of its position in the Mexican economy as a whole.

This is because the examination of this industry cannot be limited, he said, to the assumption that this is just one more sector of the economy, since it affects practically the entire economic performance of the country.

"Second," he added, "it is necessary to review some of the characteristics peculiar to this industry, which give rise to the need for more in-depth knowledge about it."

"From the union of the general perspective with the specific," he said, "there emerge new ways of thinking that are developing in the country and that, at the same time, are necessary to understand the magnitude of the challenge, but also of the promise of this industry."

He stated that the capital goods industry is related to the evolution of general economic activity, especially through the demand for investment, which in turn has an impact on the balance of payments, levels of employment and the use of various technologies.

Marcos added that the effect of this industry on the economy is enormous, in both the short and long term.

Illustrating his point with dates and figures on investment, he stated that the current crisis demonstrates very clearly the interaction between the short and long term.

In regard to the balance of payments, he said that, owing to the insufficiency of productive and technological capacity, the increase in the demand for capital goods is met to a great extent through imports, which reached 40 percent of the domestic demand for capital goods in 1980 (at that year's prices).

He added that this industry's exports account for only 4 percent of gross production, all of which generates a trade imbalance that affects the balance of payments negatively. This situation is even worse than in periods of expansion.

He stated that one of the shortcomings that can still be seen in the capital goods industry lies in the capacity to manufacture products of vital importance, such as steam and gas turbines, generators, metallurgical and mining equipment, textile equipment, equipment for paper production, large diesel engines and machinery for the food industries, among others.

He pointed out that, at present, installations capable of producing much of the aforementioned equipment is in existence, but that deficiencies in technological knowledge still persist.

"Some of that equipment could be produced with the proper negotiations to acquire the necessary technologies, but a great effort is needed in national technological development in order to assimilate those technologies," he asserted.

12351

CSO: 3248/654

BRIEFS

CONTRACT FOR XEROX CIRCUITS--Industries Xerograficas, S.A. de C.V. and Standard Electric of Mexico, S.A. de C.V. [SEMSA], an affiliate of the Indetel Group, recently signed a significant industrial contract. The contract is to supply printed circuits with the most advanced technology to Xerox, the leading manufacturer in our country of photocopy machines. The printed circuits will be manufactured in Tultitlan, Mexico State, by SEMSA, a Mexican enterprise and the main supplier of these products in the country. The contract will also allow the two enterprises to join forces to meet government requirements for national integration and the replacement of imports. This will be done through a 4 year program which involves important export commitments. The SEMSA factory installations produce the most advanced printed circuits and equipment for the professional electronic industry, and this assures that the standard of quality, technological support and deliveries which Xerox requires for this important project will be met. Without a doubt this agreement is evidence of the confidence already existing in industrial circles as to the possibility of developing the country and will contribute significantly to the creation of jobs. The contract was signed by Arturo Stieglitz, general director of Industrias Xerograficas, S.A. de C.V. and Jose Maria Fernandez Prieto, director general of the Indetel Group. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 May 84 p 8] 9204

CANACINTRA: JALISCO INDUSTRIAL INACTIVITY--Guadalajara, Jalisco, 20 May--Owing to a shrinking market, 25 percent of installed industrial capacity is idle, according to the president of CANACINTRA [National Association of the Processing Industry] of Jalisco, Jorge Arturo Torres. He noted that in the first 6 months of this year there has not been a recovery in production and sales as was desired. He added that there is still hope for a better situation during the rest of 1984. Industries, he pointed out, had reduced earnings; in order to survive last year, some companies made no profits. However, they hope to make a profit this fiscal year. Nevertheless, if the industries of Jalisco manage to survive this year with the smaller market, it will be possible to establish a strong foundation for 1985. [By Eduardo Chimely] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 May 84 p 9-D] 12351

CSO: 3248/654

OPPOSITION LEADER MOORE EYES ELECTION PROSPECTS

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 6 May 84 p 11

[Interview with Lee Moore, Labour Party and opposition leader, by North American editor Tony Best, in Basseterre; date not specified]

[Text] A short and somewhat diminutive person, the leader of the Opposition and a former premier of St. Kitts-Nevis, Mr Lee Moore, is a firebrand type of politician.

One of the best-known lawyers in St. Kitts, Mr Moore, says he has a clear vision for his small state, one that is based on the traditions of his party dating back to the heyday of the late national hero of St. Kitts, Mr Robert Bradshaw.

With an election just around the corner, Mr Moore and his Labour Party candidates and supporters, say they smell victory.

But what are his chances of becoming the next Prime Minister of St. Kitts-Nevis?

What would he do with Nevis if his party takes over?

How would he solve some of the problems facing the country?

What would be the issues in an election campaign?

Mr Moore answered those and many more questions during an interview which our North American editor, Tony Best, had with him in the Labour Party's headquarters in Basseterre on a recent Sunday morning.

What follows is an edited version of that interview.

Q: Travelling around St. Kitts, one gets a feeling that a general election is just around the corner. How prepared is your party to fight an election?

A: I entirely agree with the observation that elections are just around the corner. The first index is this. The constitution provides for a five-year term and four years have gone. We are into the last year and therefore no matter how you stretch it, elections are imminent. Various dates have been suggested, but, as you know, that is a matter which resides in the breast of the prime minister. I believe everyone in St. Kitts accepts that the elections are going to be held very shortly.

As to the preparedness of myself and the Labour Party, I think we are as prepared as we ever will be. We have most things in place and if they should call the elections any time now we are ready. Our candidates are there and our programmes have been worked out.

In fact, you might say that we are into the election campaign. For several weeks now, politicians on both sides have been doing canvassing both individually and house to house.

Q: Speaking with some of your candidates and supporters I came away with a feeling that you are confident of victory. How come?

A: Our optimism is based upon a number of things. First of all, it is based upon the disillusionment which the government has spread throughout this land. The disillusionment has affected every level of society.

Secondly, our optimism is based on the re-organisation within the Labour Party. This period in the opposition has given us a great opportunity to

look at ourselves and to take a fresh view of our beginnings and also where we are heading.

A third factor is the hard work which we have done in terms of political education. These are reflected in the public meetings, the party newspaper, the Labour spokesman, and in the meetings we have called in the yard of our party headquarters to inform our people about the issues facing St. Kitts.

The only way that the People's Action Movement can beat us is if they cheat.

Q: Do you have any evidence to indicate that the PAM government would try to cheat?

A: During the period of the PAM government, we have seen many indications that they intend to subvert the electoral system. For example, last November when they came to parliament with the new electoral bill it was to provide that every citizen of St. Kitts and Nevis, wherever he was born and wherever resident at the time, and by whatever means he obtained that citizenship, was to be eligible to vote in elections in St. Kitts-Nevis.

When you bear in mind that part of the plan, which later materialised, was to sell the citizenship of this country, then you would understand how they intended to subvert the system.

Q: Isn't that allegation a bit too strong? How do you mean, "sell the citizenship" of the country?

A: When I say "to sell the citizenship" of this country, that is not a joke. It is there in section (3), sub-section (5) of the present citizenship law which was passed earlier this year. That section provides that any person may apply in writing to be made a citizen and on payment of the prescribed fee, if the cabinet is satisfied that he has a substantial investment in the country, then the minister can make him a citizen. Well that is citizenship by purchase, isn't it?

It is clear that all of these trips the prime minister has been making to Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Far East in general was to flog the citizenship of this country. He wanted to get money for his hare-brained schemes and to use those people when they become citizens to outvote the people in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Q: What will be the main election issues?

A: The first is the spiralling

level of unemployment in the country. I mean to say that unemployment is a chronic problem in the Caribbean but it has reached acute proportions in St. Kitts. Hardly any new jobs have been created since 1980. In addition, the sugar industry has contracted significantly. Where we left it producing 40 000 tons of sugar, last year it produced 27 000 tons.

Business too is very bad and therefore firms are not taking on people. Some of them are even thinking of cutting back on the number of their employees.

There was a factory here which at one stage was employing 500 persons. One morning the workers went to work and their jobs were not there any more. In the words of the prime minister, the factory had slipped out. Then a shoe factory went into bankruptcy and 200 jobs were lost.

Next issue, is the plague of victimisation, people who have been put out of work by this government. It ranges from a governor to a gardener, superintendents of police and street cleaners. Nobody has been exempted from victimisation.

A third area of contention is the steep increases in the cost of living. The government has put up the tariffs on electricity by about 300 percent. In the Basseterre area, where property taxes have been on all the time, the government has increased those by 1 000 percent. Just walk down the street and ask a man how much he used to pay and he would tell you \$60 and now he is paying \$600. All the government did was to add a nought to whatever people used to pay. And so the government is responsible for the tremendous increase in the cost of living, quite apart from the inflation from overseas.

What is interesting is that while the cost of living has increased, wages have remained virtually stagnant.

Q: In your party's newspaper and on the political platforms, your party is raising the issue of public morality, corruption in government. The prime minister says the charges are mere political propaganda. Where is the evidence to support your allegations?

A: All right, I will offer evidence. Look out in the harbour and you will see a boat, a steel hull boat given to us by the British government after the Christina went down. It got

knocked about in the storms and it was down in Barbados for repairs. The government stopped the repairs, brought it back up here and decided that it was unseaworthy. A minister of government then took a piece of scrap paper, no tender, no advertisement or anything and instructed that the boat be sold to a party activist for \$10 000. The boat is still out there and since then it has gone as far afield as Puerto Rico.

Another point of contention is the boat which the government replaced it with. The government took US\$400 000 out of the Treasury reportedly to buy that boat. It came here in December, 1980, and we subsequently got a newspaper article which stated that the boat was a gift to the people of this country. We have been asking ever since, if the boat was a gift to the country, what happened to the US\$400 000?

When I tried to raise the issue in parliament through a no-confidence motion against the government, the government took out a writ against two of my colleagues and brought it into the House of Assembly. As I rose to speak, the leader of the House showed me the writ telling me the matter was now before the court so I couldn't speak about it.

Next is the Public Works truck. A message was sent by the government to the Public Works instructing that a party activist be sold the truck for \$2 000. It was a big public works truck and the thing was that the department was using the vehicle up to the point at which it was sold.

Q: What is your party's position on Nevis?

A: We will not bring about any constitutional change to disadvantage Nevis. If the people of Nevis want autonomy they will have autonomy. That is great; hooray for the people of Nevis. The constitutional change will be to give equal autonomy to the people of St. Kitts.

Kittitians need a legislature, a government and institutions of their own. Then if after that, we need a federal arrangement to bind the two together, then so be it. For the time being the emphasis and the priority must be to get institutions for the people of St. Kitts.

PRIORITIES

Q: Let's assume your party wins the next election. What would be your priorities?

A: In specific terms, we would be about creating jobs for the people. We would put back sugar on the basis in which it could produce 40 000 tons a year, thus creating work. It should not be forgotten that St. Kitts has some of the most fertile soil to be found anywhere in the Caribbean. Then, there is the question of the diversification of agriculture.

Once we were producing peanuts, a strategy which provided work during the dull season after the sugar harvesting period. We were also producing bananas; the planting, the tending and harvesting of bananas also provided work. Bananas also provided food for the people.

In addition, the National Agricultural Corporation was producing vegetables, and we used it as an exemplary basis for the small farmers in the country. There is also the matter of proper extension services for small farmers to keep improving the production in agriculture. That strategy was there to develop the land and it still is there.

Alongside the land, there is the sea. We must give incentives to our fishermen and help to provide proper marketing for them. Such steps would provide both food for our people and employment for fishermen.

Next is the strategy for the development of our people. That is why under the Labour government we had revolutionised the educational system. We made a high school education available to virtually every 12-year-old in the country. We put in a technical college. Today, we have to provide training for the young and it has to be a priority.

Another approach is the broadening of the scope of the tourist industry. Since the government took over, it has done very little in this regard. It was the Labour government which saw the need for the international airport. We also began building the deep water harbour and it was Labour which developed Frigate Bay as a tourist resort. We felt that we had to create avenues to provide jobs.

DISAPPEARED

Q: What about light manufacturing plants?

A: When I returned to this country in 1967, there was not one factory on the industrial estate. Today, there are several factories because of the strategies and policies followed by Labour. One aspect of that strategy was industrial stability which we had in the country. That has disappeared because the present government has undermined the process of collective bargaining and union security and rights. It has not helped the investor because he does not know what he is dealing with.

By recreating security for the workers and at the same time creating stability for the entrepreneurs, Labour will provide the atmosphere in which jobs will be increased.

Q: CARICOM is going through difficulties. What would be your

approach to CARICOM?

A: For the countries in the Caribbean, CARICOM is not an option, it is an imperative. I believe if we work meaningfully at the process of integration that it will prove a positive benefit to the people of this area. The success of the integration movement can be seen in the success of the Currency Authority. Then there is the airline. If that can work, why can't trade?

Q: Another regional institution is the UWI. What is your party's attitude to the university?

A: I would like to see more of a presence of the university in the non-campus territories. I think a programme which we had would have given the university the opportunity to decentralise, thus making higher education available to more people in the region.

Q: What about the Frigate Bay Development?

A: That is going to be an enormous issue in the campaign because it involves the

patrimony of our country. When we left office, we left a hotel there that belonged to the people. Within six months, the hotel was burnt down and we heard the government didn't have any money to rebuild it and so they sold it. The conditions of the sale are a steal and the people of this country resent it. It should not be forgotten that Frigate Bay was acquired and developed with public funds. There was no advertisement, no publicity given to the sale. It was sold to foreigners.

This policy of selling out our heritage to foreigners was seen again in the disposal of an animal and dairy estate over Basseterre. For years, we kept it to produce milk for consumption in Basseterre and surrounding areas. The government has sold the land to foreigners. We were not consulted of taking our country into the ownership of the people. The government is reversing that trend.

BRIEFS

CDB LOAN--Castries, Wed (AP)--The Caribbean Development Bank has granted loans totalling \$17.4 million for three major projects here, the government announced today. The funds will be used for construction of a new cruise-ship facility in the Castries harbour, additional factory space at three industrial estates on the island, and a feasibility study and final design for reconstruction of the road linking Castries with Soufriere, 26 miles to the south. A government spokesman said the largest loan, \$11.6 million, will be used for construction of 150,000 square feet of additional factory space over a three-year period. The bank will provide \$112. million from its special fund resources. The project will provide jobs, foreign exchange earnings, the establishment of linkages with other sectors of the economy and the promotion of local entrepreneurship, the government spokesman said.

[Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/876

MNU'S GONSALVES BLASTS 'ADAMS DOCTRINE,' VIEWS POLITICS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 1 May 84 p 7

[Text] Whatever became of Ralph Gonsalves?

Barbadians will remember him as the controversial University of the West Indies lecturer whose work permit was revoked back in January 1980 by the Government.

Deemed a "security risk" by the Adams administration at the time, Dr. Gonsalves was forced to return to his native St. Vincent. For the best part of the last four years, aside from two teaching stints in the U.S. and Britain, he has divided his time between a law practice and being part of the leadership of the United People's Movement (UPM) party and then the Movement for National Unity (MNU) which he formed following a split from the UPM in 1982.

However, whatever his disagreements on the way forward with his UPM comrades, the leftist politician has remained a vociferous critic of what he calls the "Adams doctrine."

Speaking to the BARBADOS ADVOCATE while on a brief visit away from his homeland last week, Dr Gonsalves said: "Prime Minister Adams and his Government have long ago become a surrogate of the U.S. in the region. The island's foreign policy is but an extension of the extremely dangerous militaristic policy of Washington.

Echoing some of the fiery political salvos which he made while working here Dr.Gonsalves also spoke of the recent Grenada events.

"The support for Washington during the Grenada invasion is but a logical extension of what I analysed as the Adams doctrine back in 1979--that is, domestic and foreign policies which strive to destroy in the most undemocratic way any regional progressive government or party."

Dr. Gonsalves argued that there was a definite anti-Barbados Government sentiment among a substantial number of the people of the Eastern Caribbean.

"There is a widespread feeling among all classes of people that the Barbados Government is endeavouring to create a greater Barbados in the Eastern Caribbean."

The former university lecturer said he still managed to come to Barbados occasionally on business and to visit old friends. He stressed that his bitterness and criticism was not directed against the Barbadian people, but against the Government here.

Turning to developments on the political scene in St. Vincent, Dr. Gonsalves argued that the island's population had been hard hit by the lack of proper handling of the economy by the Milton Cato Government in Kingstown. Dr. Gonsalves revealed that his MNU party was actively preparing for the forthcoming general elections which he felt could be called anytime. Under the Vincentian Constitution, the elections must be held before March next year.

The MNU would be fielding a slate of nine for the 13-member Assembly, he promised, and he would again be running in the North Central Windward constituency which encompasses his hometown village of Colonaire on the north east coast. There are about 45 000 eligible voters in the island.

Dr Gonsalves felt that he would do "fairly well" at the polls, adding: "The much publicised statement by Prime Minister Adams following the last general election to the effect that I was rejected even by my own home village is misleading. The point is that the result from polling stations from a wide surrounding area had to be taken into account when analysing my defeat and not just in the village. I did in fact have the support of my village and substantial areas of the riding."

With regard to the issue which he thought would be part of the campaign, the MNU leader said that the problems of the economy were undoubtedly the "number one issue," adding that his party had joined with the left generally in questioning the recently introduced legislation on the electoral machinery such as the enumeration process.

"The provisions of the law are very disturbing and if implemented could well result in an unfree election," said Dr. Gonsalves, pointing to the short period which political parties would have to scrutinise the voters' lists.

As for the chances of any of the many political parties in the island forming a coalition to oppose the ruling St. Vincent Labour Party at the polls, he said that this was "most unlikely" now despite serious attempts between the MNU and the New Democratic Party (NDP) of former Premier James Mitchell to bring together a united front.

Dr. Gonsalves also said that his party was carefully watching the island's police force, especially a special section within it called the Special Service Unit, which he said had been virtually transformed into a standing army.

"We don't know if there is an Austin or Amin among the ranks. There is a definite threat posed by the emergence of this backdoor army," argued Dr. Gonsalves, adding that he was not against a standing army as such but was in favour of an "educated and responsible" one.

About his reasons for breaking with the UPM and whether he had turned his back on the radical socialist ideas he espoused while in Barbados, the descendent of Portuguese indentured labourers who came to the Caribbean in the last Century said that he was interested in looking at the "Programmatic content" to gauge where a person stood politically.

He, nevertheless, stated that he is still "on the side of the workers" and that his party was one of "socialist orientation defending national independence."

When asked why, with his impeccable academic qualifications in addition to his law degree, he had not left for Europe or Britain where he would be more financially secure, Dr. Gonsalves said: "There is no way of getting me out of the Caribbean."

A former Student Council head at the UWI's Mona campus in Jamaica, Dr. Gonsalves is married to Jamaican born Sonia and they have two sons: Camillo (12) and Adam (3).

CSO: 3298/860

ROLE OF U.S.-ARMED POLICE FORCE CALLED INTO QUESTION

Skepticism Over M16's

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 4 May 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Those Guns"]

[Text] Our Police Force seems to have become something completely different from the Law enforcement organisation to which we looked for protection from crime and its perpetrators up to a quarter of a century ago. The photographs of the Lawmen which appeared on THE VINCENTIAN's front page last week indicate that local policemen are being turned into a military arm. The men who raided two premises at Paul's Lot last Thursday certainly gave that impression. They were dressed in a manner reminiscent of pictures we have seen of "crack" beretted soldiers from other lands; and they were armed to the teeth!

It is very unusual for soldiers under arms to turn out against nationals of their own countries, in democratic regimes. The lawmen go armed of course but not in an obvious state of aggression against the individual. In the United States, which gave us the guns, even the FBI presents an unaggressive appearance. The guns come out as a last resort not as a psychological attack.

What do our police intend to do when armed with M 16 guns, the turn out against Rastas? Fire on them.

The whole idea of arming our police with sophisticated weapons is disquieting. However when the authorities demonstrate, as they did in Paul's Lot last Thursday, that the civilian population is to be the first target for the recently acquired arms the thing becomes preposterous. ...West Indians do not seem inclined to learn from the lessons of the past. Within the Windward Islands group itself, the experiences of two of the four units with their own armed forces should be a standing example. The trigger happiness of the Dominican army spurred Eugenia Charles to the disbanding of it as soon as she acquired power. The way the PRA turned their guns on Grenadians horrified the whole of Caricom.

...No matter how well armed these Caribbean mini states are, they can do nothing against the invading forces of any but similar size Caribbean nations.

As the Grenada affair proved the super powers will in any eventuality enter the picture to decide the fate of the ministates.

So against whom are the armies being built? So far, Caribbean island armies have turned their guns only on their fellow citizens. What they have done is give the big powers an excuse for "intervention" or "invasion" (depending on the position taken by a person). Which ever it is, and regardless of the benignness of the super power involved, national independence, personal initiative and a capability to decide on issues without reference to thoughts relating to external powers go by the board.

We advise all the Caribbean countries to take a good hard look at the assistance being offered in the form of arms and or military training. Money for education, health and sport would be much more acceptable.

The nations of the world need peace not war. The Caribbean should be kept as a zone of peace. We don't need guns because we would not be allowed to use them to prevent more developed countries with better technological skills and equipment from fishing in the Caribbean Basin and taking for their profit one of our few resources. We don't need guns; we need goodwill and friendship.

Threat of 'Trigger-Happy'

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 4 May 84 p 2

[From Ken John column "This Week": "It Can Happen Here"]

[Text] Quite frankly, I was very upset by last week's VINCENTIAN front page splash featuring a raid by the police, armed to the teeth, to carry out the arrest of a young couple for allegedly dealing in marijuana. It was a classic case of overkill, and it did not surprise me one bit that many locals first thought that the pictures highlighted events taking place in some distant foreign land. Such persons should begin to shake themselves from sleep or they would be in for a very rude awakening one day.

An equally disturbing piece of news was JUSTICES report that the personable Windward Islands batsman, Albert Tesheira, had been taken up on enquiry with the muzzle of a Police Inspector's gun jammed to his back. This is perhaps a foretaste of things to come, a straw in the wind, and we had better begin to batten down for the hurricane.

Just about everybody with a smattering of common sense has warned of the danger of arming "trigger-happy recruits" in these poverty-stricken, two-by-four countries where we clamber over each other daily in a battle for survival. People trained for combat and bristling with sophisticated arms are going to provoke or create situations requiring the use of weapons as well as justifying their pay-packet. The sickening thud of Gabby's "Boots and More Boots" is echoing all over the place. So far we have seen only the tip, but those of us who can't hear will certainly feel the full kick of the boot in due course.

The guns of Fort Rupert executed a Revolution and left Grenadians demoralised. The invading forces flattened Grenada and shell-shocked its people. Nobody with reason takes seriously the hand-outs read as news over local TV painting a rosy picture of "Grenada Today." Michael Manley says that the Grenadian people are traumatised. Angela Bishop notes that Grenada is like a "morgue," with so many zombies drifting aimlessly around the place. We have to make sure that in trying to prevent another Grenada we do not go to the other extreme and come full circle, inviting similar results.

Some years ago, on the flimsiest pretext the Trinidad regiment ran amok in the village of Careenage. The Jamaicans have had endless trouble trying to rein--in their military musclemen. Dominica had to call it George with her own, only to be enticed to start anew with another army supposedly under tighter and more enlightened political control. The truth is that top-heavy military aid in these parts is an imported timebomb with a rather short fuse. A phantom coup today such as scared the daylights out of Hudson Tannis three years ago will surely be put down with a heavy hand!

My final appeal is directed at the political Chieftains who imagine that they are glued to the levers of control and can handle the flow of events by simply pushing the right buttons. Things do not always go according to plan, and Frankenstein was one of the first victims to be struck down by the monster he had proudly created. Let that serve as a lesson.

Need for Different Assistance

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 20 May 84 pp 5B, 8B

[Article by Nora Peacocke, editor of THE VINCENTIAN: "Guns and More Guns in Kingstown: Why This Violent Approach to Law Enforcement?"]

[Text] For the first time since the acquisition of the new arms from the Americans they were brought out to do a job last week.

The M16s were carried by members of the Special Unit of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force that have undergone training by the United States military.

The men who carried the M16s did not look like policemen at all. They wore berets and khaki uniforms. The sort of garb that one is accustomed to associate with soldiers--not lawmen.

However the mission on which the squad was bent was law enforcement. They raided two premises in Paul's Lot--a slum area of the city of Kingstown.

The area is the site of many Rastafarian homes, shops and small eating houses.

In short, a large number of Rastas inhabit it for commercial as well as residential purposes. The raids were made in search of illicit merchandise and a man and woman were arrested.

Criminal

On one of the premises "drugs" were found.

What is the idea behind this violent approach to law enforcement? Do the authorities feel that the Rastafarian community has an awesomeness over and above known criminal elements in the society? Or is it that it was considered to be a good opportunity to display our newfound military might?

There are two sides to the psychological influence of arms. A sense of fear for the unarmed; and a sense of power for the armed.

Fear can have more than one reaction. First it can produce, what presumably is the intention of a display like that of Thursday April 26 in Paul's Lot, docility.

Second, the sort of panic that will cause violence.

Third, a decision on the part of real criminals to plan countermeasures aimed at both retaliation and the acquisition, through theft, of like weapons.

Power that is misdirected is a most destructive thing. The misdirection can result in accident. Or it can become a tool through which ill-devised loyalties can be directed into paths of destruction.

Or it can be used by power hungry operators to gain ascendancy.

Revolvers

The Law must be armed to carry out its function. But should it be police policy to be obviously prepared to blast a citizen suspected of criminal action or intent from the face of the earth?

I believe not.

Do the United States policemen, including the FBI, approach their delinquent fellow-citizens with M16s? I think they use revolvers.

In recent Caribbean experience the misuse of guns by local groups has brought terror and sadness.

For the Windward Islands alone, two of the four territories have seen their armies turn their guns on fellow citizens. I refer to Grenada and to a much lesser extent Dominica. St. Vincent and the Grenadines should not let that lesson go unlearned.

Against what alien forces will our Special Unit be called upon to act?

Recent events in Grenada show that the United States stands ready to "rescue" or "invade" in the face of disturbances in the area.

US guns are far mightier than any that superpower would give to us. Consequently it seems to me that we only need weapons to keep Law and order within our state. Anything more than that can only get us into trouble.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is badly in need of help that is oriented towards peace. We need technical education. We need trading facilities. We need food processing plants based on our own resources.

We need agricultural and fishing equipment.

We need a cultural centre in which we can display our art and crafts; listen to music--ours and visitors; and witness dramatic productions--from home and abroad.

Another thing that we need is protection of our Caribbean Sea resources for the Caribbean people.

Many external fishers, with a higher level of technology than ours, currently poach in our waters and make off with fish that should be available to Caribbean people for fresh food or processing.

That protection must come from international concensus not big guns in the hands of puny nations.

Arsenals

If the statesmen in the super powers--the United States and the Soviet Union--honestly feel that they can only safeguard their national liberty by building up vast arsenals and entering into nuclear competition with each other, the rest of the world can only watch with apprehension.

However, the arming of small weak nations is another matter in the same category as the invasion of defenceless counties by one of the super nations--which is usually vociferously condemned by the nonoffender and all the United Nations members except the offender and its satellites.

The world would be far closer to the peace ideal if the super powers would mind their own business.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the other Caribbean ministates would be nearer to a solution to their problems, nearer to a sense of security, nearer to regional integration and nearer to self-sufficiency and national integrity if our governments would say no to guns, and no to interference within their borders be it ideological or materialistic.

Of course it would also mean turning away from worship of the North American way of life, in which things beyond our finances and our technology are revered.

Why must we have big cars for narrow roads; enormous refrigerators with fluctuating electrical power; intricate colour television sets in a society that lacks technicians?

We need to drive around, we need refrigeration, we need to see and hear what's going on in the world but we don't need to keep up with the North American Joneses.

Most of all we don't need massive fire power.

Someone said recently that the Revolutionary Military Council had at its disposal, when it took over in Grenada, "control of enough arms, ammunition and sophisticated weapons and vehicles to demolish all the English-speaking Caribbean."

That power came from non-United States sources. But it makes no difference who makes the guns that are put in the hands of Vincentian boys.

Nobody has the right to put them there. They just don't need them, and I don't think they should have them. Guns are for real. They aren't toys.

CSO: 3298/840

CATO ADDRESSES SLP CONVENTION, SCORES INEQUALITY, POVERTY

Call for Antipoverty Measures

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 May 84 p 17

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, Mon. (Cana):

PRIME MINISTER Milton Cato has called on supporters of the ruling St. Vincent Labour Party to tackle the twin problems of inequality and poverty here.

He told some 200 delegates at the party's 1984 national convention here that these problems should be addressed before it was too late and they "erupt in our own bedrooms, in our neighbour's bedrooms, in our villages and towns."

"We must, each one of us, ask ourselves every morning when we get up, what have I done yesterday to help improve conditions in my village... whether it is drawing some inequality or some problem to the attention of the proper quarters, and not wait until something affects us personally and individually to come running for solutions to your personal problems," he said.

Cato said that the objective of his government and the party should be to strive to create a new, just and equal society for the people of the country.

The 68-year-old lawyer added: "We must now chart our course as we move along the road prepared to face the known and unknown obstacles. Let self-confidence and courage be our guide as we proceed on this journey towards a new cre-

ative society which ensures justice and equality of opportunity to all."

Prime Minister Cato said that in the five years since St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained independence from Britain in 1979, his government had been able to remove the political stumbling blocks along the way and now had to tackle the other problems of improving conditions for the people of the state.

Cato, who has headed the 29-year-old Labour Party since its formation in 1955, said the major problems facing the country were poverty and inequality.

CONFIDENCE

But he was confident that unlike many other poor developing countries which resorted to violence to solve their social, economic and political problems, St. Vincent and the Grenadines would adhere to democratic means to find solutions to its problems.

"One thing I am confident of, and that is that our democracy here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has come to stay," he declared. "But economic freedom in the shape of economic self-reliance of the nation and also improvement in the daily lives of our working class people is yet to be achieved."

He said that there was still a great deal of work to be done to bring about that brighter and better day and the fight against poverty and inequality demanded the united efforts of all the people.

Resolution on Local Government

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 May 84 p 13

[Text] Kingstown, May 9, (CANA)--More than 200 delegates who attended the ruling St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party's national convention last week, have called for the re-introduction of local government abolished in 1972.

In a resolution adopted at the two-day meeting, they also called for the setting up of constituency offices for elected Parliamentarians, and a constitutional amendment to allow for the appointment of a Deputy Prime Minister.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Hudson Tannis, Deputy political leader of the Party usually deputises on occasion for Prime Minister Milton Cato who was re-elected leader for the 29th consecutive year at the convention.

Delegates felt the setting up of constituency offices, manned by executive secretaries, would facilitate more efficient and effective representation of the people by members of Parliamentarians.

The convention took place amid signs that the country is gearing for general elections, constitutionally due by next March.

CSO: 3298/841

BRIEFS

UPM ATTACK ON ISAACS--Kingstown, St Vincent Wednesday (CANA)--Opposition Parliamentarian James Mitchell and the left-wing opposition United Peoples Movement (UPM) have called for the dismissal of lawyer Grafton Isaacs as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs in St Vincent and the Grenadines, following the British Privy Council's dismissal of his appeal against a "contempt of court" ruling handed down by the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal five years ago. The case originally arose from a dispute in 1977 between Isaacs and another lawyer, Emery Robertson over an acre and a half of land at Villa on the outskirts of Kingstown. Soon after news of the May 10 Privy Council decision reached the state, Mitchell wrote Prime Minister Milton Cato calling for the sacking of Isaacs as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs. Mitchell said "that he should have been allowed to continue in office since the ruling of our court of appeal is a national disgrace." UPM also issued a statement today calling for the dismissal of Isaacs, who has been Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs here since 1980. UPM said the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs occupied the supreme law making office in the state and as such ought to exemplify law abiding discipline and be a major custodian of the system of jurisprudence. The government has made no statement on the matter. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 84 p 38]

CSO: 3298/841

SPECIAL COMMITTEE EVALUATES PNM; MAHABIR PRAISED

Recommendations for Change

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] The Ruling People's National Movement (PNM) is alive and vigorous but it is clear that the party needs to take a long, hard look at itself if it hopes to confront successfully the challenges of the 80s and 90s.

This is one of the findings of a committee headed by Education Minister Overand Padmore which was set up to examine the role, function and perspective of the PNM. The party has been running the country since 1956.

The findings of the committee--a 15-page report--makes interesting reading as it deals with the state of the party. It will be considered by the PNM's General Council at a meeting on Sunday.

According to the report, the probers were struck by the forceful and frequent references in many of the 36 constituencies in which they conducted their deliberations.

Among the issues raised at these sessions were corruption, utilities, youth, leadership, the PNM's Secretariat, lack of vitality in many party groups, job insecurity, squatting, DEWD, treatment of pensioners and Tobago (preservation of the unitary state), radio and television reception.

Most of these consultative meetings were well attended and the committee was impressed with the range and depth of the issues raised.

The report emphasises: "The 1976 and 1981 General Elections were contested by the opposition forces on the theme--'time to change.' They were unsuccessful. PNM must draw the correct conclusions from this.

Sample Views

"The country is comfortable with the role of the PNM over the last 27 years. The people have felt able to exercise their democratic rights vigorously even when they felt the Government was going off-course. They have never felt intimidated by the PNM as a government nor the PNM as a party."

Following is a sample of views collected during the Padmore probe:

--Some of our political opponents were more successful in influencing the public--why?;

--PNM the saviour for the people of Trinidad and Tobago--that belief is now at risk.

--PNM moving away from the people.

--Party's image tarnished by corruption issue--essential that this issue be confronted;

--PNM won in 1981 because people voted against the Opposition.

--Institutions in Trinidad and Tobago under relentless attack; inadequate PNM response--positive leadership called for.

--Examine the strategy of the Opposition and do not under-rate it. Corruption charges must be taken seriously. Do not under-rate the effect of their constant reiteration of corruption charges, their preaching of race.

--Why did PNM supporters not come out to vote? Were they disappointed about something? Housing allocation a problem? Job scarcity a problem?

--Well-organised propaganda machine against the party--communications media working against the PNM.

--Every fault being laid at door of PNM and we are not countering. A conglomerate used the threat of retrenchment on eve of elections to terrorise workers.

--PNM came out of the middle-class. Now the party is almost deliberately giving away middle-class. This is a tragedy which could lead to defeat.

--Take a closer look at party organisation and put serious people in charge--not Ministers who are too busy to do party work.

--PNM has become more concerned with the government than with the party--the party has more fundamental things to do which are not now being addressed.

--The party should seek to influence the leadership--PNM not now providing leadership--we are allowing others to take the initiative--in particular given the support Opposition parties are receiving from the media--PNM is in position of retreat.

"This is a dangerous situation--not sure whether information through a separate newspaper is the answer--but the party must recognise public relations is not a job for amateurs. The pity is both PNM and Government have so much to be proud of--just not being propagated," the report states.

General Council's Report

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] The General Council of the People's National Movement (PNM) yesterday expressed fullest support to a resolution expressing every confidence in the ability and resourcefulness of Labour Minister Errol Mahabir in settling industrial disputes.

The resolution, from the San Fernando West constituency--Mr Mahabir's constituency--was submitted yesterday to the General Council which endorsed it.

Presentation of the resolution came during a meeting of the Council, the main purpose of which was to debate the report of the Padmore Committee which was set up to examine the role, function and perspective of the party that has been governing the country since 1956.

Some 18 members spoke on the list of recommendations before further debate on the report was adjourned to June 24.

No major consensus arose on any particular topic. Members spoke on a variety of topics about which the party's leadership was well aware. They praised the committee for the tremendous work it did.

As a result, General Council delegates complimented the committee's chairman Education Minister Overand Padmore.

Dealing with the San Fernando West resolution, members expressed their deep concern over last week's incident when the Minister of Labour's family were abused and threatened at their San Fernando home by a group of people who were protesting on behalf of the then striking oil workers.

Cowardly Bunch

After noting that the action by the "cowardly bunch" of protesters was condemned at large, the San Fernando West group said it viewed the action with grave concern since such action posed a risk to holders of public office.

The constituency urged "that such action of cowardice and intimidation should be deplored, and where applicable, should be dealt with by the law enforcement agencies.

The group also commended the statement made by the Commissioner of Police and steps taken by the protective services in upholding the laws of the country.

"We endorse and fully support the actions and proposals of the Minister," wrote the group, "and continue to have every confidence in his ability and resourcefulness to achieve greater co-operation between employers and workers, to fearlessly pursue these initiatives to bring about in the national interest a speedy resolution to the present unrest."

Both constituency members and those of the General Council felt that the resolution reflected the sentiments of a great number of people in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Mahabir is due to preside today at another session of talks between Texaco and the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) aimed at reaching a settlement on a new industrial agreement for Texaco workers.

CSO: 3298/879

DEVELOPMENTS ON LABOR FRONT, UNION ACTIVITIES REPORTED

CPTU-Labour Congress Rift

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 May 84 p 1

[Text] The Council of Progressive Trade Unions has rejected an invitation to take part in Labour Day celebrations of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress.

In a letter to the General Secretary of Congress, the CPTU thanked them for the invitation to celebrate Labour Day on June 19 in Port of Spain, but said that all the CPTU unions had agreed to hold their own celebrations this year.

CPTU Secretary Cecil Paul said also that the Joint Trade Unions Grouping would have discussions with the Labour Congress on the matter.

Mr Carl Tull, General Secretary of Congress, could not be contacted for comment yesterday but in a previous discussion with the "Guardian," he had said that two years ago the two sectors had agreed to hold joint celebrations in 1984.

Earlier this month, at the May Day rally, the Joint Unions had sought to pass a motion dissolving the CPTU and putting all unions under Congress but this was not presented when the CPTU unions asked for time to take the issue to their executive council for discussion.

Labour Congress on Unity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 May 84 p 1

[Text] Labour Congress officials are not surprised at the position taken by all member unions of the Joint Grouping of Trade Unions and Associations to conduct Labour Day activities under its own banner.

"As a matter of fact we anticipated it," Mr Carl Tull, General Secretary of the Labour Congress said yesterday.

The joint trade unions announced their intention last Friday evening following a meeting at PSA headquarters. A venue for the celebrations will be decided upon at the follow-up meeting scheduled for Friday.

Mr Tull explained, "In 1982 and 1983 we, in order to bring about or cement talks, agreed to go to Fyzabad to demonstrate. The agreement on both sides was that we would do the same in Port-of-Spain this year. Their announcement only shows that they have gone back on their words."

He added, "We can have no quarrel with them if they choose to go to Fyzabad."

The Labour Day Committee of the Labour Congress will meet today at 4.30 p.m. at SSWTU Hall to finalise arrangements for their celebrations in Port-of-Spain.

Industrial Relations Changes

Port-of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Text] Cabinet has agreed to proposals for some amendments to the Industrial Relations Act (IRA). They will be published for public comment.

Making this disclosure yesterday was the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Mr Errol Mahabir. He said that the tripartite discussions on the amendments had been taking place for the past year.

A comprehensive report has already been submitted by Dr Zin Henry, Adviser to the Minister, setting out various proposals on which tripartite consensus has been reached in addition to areas where there are differences of opinion.

Cabinet has accepted all the recommendations on which there was consensus.

One deals with the clarification of schedules (1) and (2) of the IRA relating to essential services and industries.

Others deal with the reintroduction of a single court in place of the two separate divisions which were established in 1978; widened powers of the court in its conciliation function; streamlining of procedures for recognition and certification of unions; collective agreements; dispute procedures and industrial action.

Where there has been failure to arrive at a consensus Cabinet has taken policy decisions. In one instance, this is in respect of cancellation of certificates of recognised majority unions at the instance of a stipulated majority of workers in a bargaining unit.

Other decisions taken relate to effective date of recognition of certificate; membership in good standing; balloting for certification purposes and cessation of industrial action after a stipulated period.

Protest of Ministry Cutbacks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 16

[Text] The financially troubled Ministry of Works, Maintenance and Drainage Division wants to retrench more than 2,000 of its maintenance staff but this move has met with stiff opposition from the workers.

The National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW) said the workers would protest the proposed retrenchment until they were guaranteed job security.

Mr Selwyn John, NUGFW's General Secretary, said that many of the affected workers had as many as 18 years' service.

"We are not prepared to accept this," he declared.

The workers staged a protest demonstration outside the Ministry's offices Edward Street, Port-of-Spain, last Tuesday. More such demonstrations are planned.

An informed source said the Ministry decided to retrench more than half of its 4,000-strong maintenance staff because of financial difficulties. It is understood that the Ministry has already used up \$41 million out of its \$85 million allocation in the 1984 Budget.

It was stated that the Ministry planned to approach Cabinet for an additional \$26 million.

"We are prepared to consider a plan to lay off casual workers rather than permanent members of staff," Mr John said.

"We have heard that some workers with less than five years' service are not being considered for retrenchment. This is unfair when the jobs of many with 18 years service are threatened," he added.

The union has also rejected a proposal by the Ministry to reduce working days.

CSO: 3298/879

BOBB REPLACES BRUCE AS GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jun 84 p 1

[Article by Francis Joseph]

[Text] Dr Euric Allan Bobb has been appointed as the new Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago for a period of five years, effective August 1.

Dr Bobb will succeed Mr Victor Edward Bruce, the first national to become Governor of the Central Bank. Mr Bruce's current term of office will come to an end on July 31.

The appointment was made by President Ellis Clarke on the recommendations of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank.

Mr Bruce has been Governor of the Bank for the past 15 years. He succeeded Dr Alexander McLeod, a national of Canada, as the head of the bank on August 1, 1969.

Mr Bruce is the holder of the nation's highest award--the Trinity Cross and the Humming Bird Medal (Gold). He joined the Central Bank on January 1, 1966 as Deputy Governor, a post he held for three years until the promotion to Governor.

Other Positions

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Governor of the Bank, he held other positions in the the public service dating back to 1942 when he joined the service as a third class clerk in the Registrar General's Office.

He has held the position of Chief Establishment Officer in the Ministry of Finance (1961), Director of Personnel Administration (1962), and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tobago Affairs (1964).

He is the current chairman of the national Insurance Board (NIB) and the National Insurance Property Development Company (NIPDEC).

Dr Bobb, who holds a Ph.D degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge, has been with the Central Bank since March 1, 1978, when he was appointed for a second five-year term of office from March 1, 1983.

Prior to his appointment to the post of Deputy Governor in the Bank, Dr Bobb was employed with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. from 1969 to 1978.

This service included a period of three years from September 1974 to June 1977 when he was seconded to the Government of Liberia as Project Manager of the Planning Advisory Team jointly financed by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

On that assignment, he served in the capacity of senior Economic Adviser to the Government of Liberia and had principal responsibility for the preparation of that country's first four-year development plan.

Apart from his duties at the Central Bank, Dr Bobb is chairman of the Boards of the Reinsurance Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited and the Food and Agriculture Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited.

He is deputy Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago (BWIA International) Airways Corporation and a director of the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange.

Dr Bobb served on the Task Force appointed by Cabinet to formulate a multi-sectoral development plan for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago which worked from 1982 to 1983 under the chairmanship of William G. Demas.

He was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation headed by Prime Minister George Chambers at the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in New Delhi, India, last November.

CSO: 3298/880

TEXACO-UNION DISCORD PERSISTS; PROTESTORS TURN VIOLENT

Disagreement on Arbitration

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 May 84 p 1

[Article by Suzanne Morris]

[Excerpt] A proposal by Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives that an independent conciliator be appointed to settle the issue of the dismissal of eight Texaco workers has been rejected by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU).

But Texaco officials say they are willing to go along with the plan.

Mr Mahabir made the suggestion yesterday afternoon during the first round of conciliatory meetings between both parties at the Ministry of Labour, Riverside Plaza. He said the measure was a means of avoiding the normal time-consuming process of having dismissals reported to his Ministry and, if not settled there, to the Industrial Court.

According to the Minister, an independent arbitrator would look immediately into the dismissals and give an impartial decision. Both sides would have to accept his findings as binding.

However, OWTU officials have rejected the idea and are insisting on the reinstatement of the dismissed workers.

With respect to increasing its wage offer, Texaco officials made proposals as pre-conditions for doing this.

They are asking for craft consolidation by which one worker will be able to do the job of another; that contractors should not be bound by company wages and a change in the bunkering department where employees work 40 hours and get paid for 70 hours.

Mr Mahabir asked the company to put a total wage offer over three years on the table, instead of their initial offer of five percent for the first year. Texaco has asked for time to consider this.

On the other hand, the union has reduced its original offer of 80 percent to 50 percent (25, 15 and 10 percent increases respectively over three years).

Before the start of the meeting Mr Errol McLeod, acting president general of the OWTU and head of the union's negotiating team, indicated that they were willing to accept no less than 25 percent in the first year. The union is also insisting on a three year wage increase offer.

Mr McLeod also expressed the hope that some decision would be reached on the issue of reinstatement of the dismissed workers.

Attack on Mahabir's Home

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Text] Placard-bearing, flag-waving demonstrators paraded yesterday in front the home of Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Errol Mahabir, at Sumadh Gardens, Vistabella, San Fernando.

At the time Mr Hamabir was at his offices at Riverside Plaza, Port-of-Spain.

However, his wife and family were at home. Mrs Mahabir was subjected to a barrage of foul and abusive language and insults from the demonstrators.

According to reports, the demonstrators, waving blue and red flags and displaying placards, some of them declaring "Mahabir must go," arrived in the area in a mini-bus and other vehicles in the afternoon chanting slogans.

Usually Minister Mahabir remains in San Fernando on a Wednesday where he operates from the Ministry of Labour offices in the borough and also attends to the business of his constituency. (He is the parliamentary representative for San Fernando West).

However, yesterday he was in Port-of-Spain attending to matters at his Riverside Plaza offices in relation to the current industrial situation.

Over the last few weeks, the Minister has been involved in a number of labour disputes including unrest in the oilbelt.

While the demonstrators were outside Mr Mahabir's home, neighbours who witnessed the commotion summoned the Southern Police, but when they arrived the demonstrators had already left.

Southern Police confirmed yesterday that they had received reports of persons demonstrating outside the Minister's home.

Contacted late yesterday on the matter, Mr Mahabir said that when he reached his home around 5 p.m. he was greeted by his wife with the report that she and his family were subjected to the worst type of abuse by some men and women who came in vehicles.

Apart from calling for the Minister to go, they were also chanting "De La Grenade must go" and making references to the Lever Brothers and the McEneaney disputes, while some placards denounced any "wage freeze."

Commenting on the action yesterday, Mr Mahabir said: "It is a great act of cowardice on the part of the persons who came to my house today to abuse my wife and family in the manner in which they did."

He added: "I wish to make it clear, however, that nothing that they can do will prevent me from doing my duties fairly and fearlessly."

Delay in Talks

Meanwhile, talks between Texaco and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) are scheduled to resume today, but Mr Mahabir said late yesterday that he had been contacted by Mr Lloyd Austin, General Manager of Texaco who is now in the United States, stating that he would be unable to be back in Trinidad before late today.

He said Mr Austin said he was in the United States in relation to the Minister's request for a positive wage offer.

Mr Mahabir said that in the circumstances it was likely that the meeting would be postponed for a day to tomorrow but he had asked the company to make the arrangements with the OWTU.

The company had offered five percent in the first year while the union had reduced its demand from 80 percent to 50 percent over three years.

'Anarchy' Warning

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Text] President of the Employers' Consultative Association has expressed concern at the illegal picketing of the homes of company directors and has suggested that this could cause serious problems in the country.

Mr Emile de la Grenade was speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Port of Spain Rotary Club at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday.

According to Mr de la Grenada, the ECA is very concerned at the violation by certain parties of the Trade Dispute and Protection of Property Ordinance as entailed in the laws of the country.

He said: "The dimension of picketing directors' homes is clearly prohibited and it seems that has gone on as a joke and if not arrested by the authorities, can cause serious problems for all of us in the country.

"The law was put on statute and passed by Parliament for all the citizens. Trinidad and Tobago is not intended only for the trade unions; it is intended for the citizens also and we all must do our utmost to defend it under the Constitution."

The ECA, he said, recommends "consultation rather than confrontation" and they were in no confrontation with the trade unions. If the laws of the country were not followed, he said, there could be anarchy.

He agreed that confrontation was not on the part of unions alone. Stressing that he was not referring to any company in particular, he said that any company hoping to make large profits and offering increases like 0,3,3 over a three-year period was asking for confrontation.

Mr de la Grenade said that unions must recognise the need for much more reasonable demands and called on the labour movement to have open discussions with them.

He also said that the three social partners--Government, unions and employers--would have to carry the burden equally, in that Government must understand that it has to ease the situation by possibly reviewing the tax system, unions must ask for less, and employers must understand that they cannot continue to make the same profits.

He said he was very concerned that one day's pay in Trinidad was equivalent to one week's pay in Antigua. He said that when employers offer five percent increase over a three-year period in this country, no one seemed to take into consideration the cost of living applications which raise the 15 percent to well over 31 percent in any three-year-period.

The country's standard of living would always be higher than any other West Indian island, he said, and would stay so for the next ten years.

Foreign Investment

He suggested that what was needed for this society was to "attract foreign investments on a partnership basis" as this would have immense benefits for the country, bringing in foreign currency and possibly expanding to foreign markets.

He noted that if Trinidad and Tobago could not compete on the Caricom market then it would be almost impossible for us to compete internationally.

Mr de la Grenade called on the private sector to speak out on national issues as they affected them, as "their credibility sometimes comes into dispute and silence does breed acceptance."

He also suggested that the private sector should be free to open business on any day of the week, and this had nothing to do with the disruption of family life."

Texaco Personnel Plans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 May 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] Texaco Trinidad Inc stated yesterday that the company had no plan for retrenchment of workers at this time.

An official of the company was denying comments made by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union that Texaco had plans to retrench 1,000 workers.

Asked to comment, the company official said:

The OWTU said in its bulletin No 5 that the union has called for a moratorium on retrenchment "because we know that we must fight at every possible opportunity against Texaco's plans to retrench further."

It claimed that Texaco had plans to "axe" at least 1,000 workers.

Questioned on the situation with petroleum products, the company said yesterday that there was no problem with the availability of such products from the refinery. "For details, we refer you to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, who, under the order of the Trade Ordinance involved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is the person responsible for such supplies."

Production Continues

Texaco was also asked about its crude production in the light of the industrial problems at the company. An official said, "Oil production continues at the company's producing fields.

The company also stated that the refinery continued to operate at 60,000 barrels a day.

It is understood that Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc) is continuing to supply the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery with 37,000 barrels of crude according to the arrangement made by Government.

Meanwhile, petroleum products continue to flow out of the Texaco Pointe-a-Pierre bond as the industrial dispute between the company and OWTU continues.

The unrest is now in its third week and from the look of things there is no immediate signs of a settlement.

Before a return to normalcy, the union is demanding reinstatement of the eight workers dismissed by the company, the offer of a reasonable wage increase and agreement to a moratorium on retrenchment.

A source close to Texaco said that an average of 125,000 gallons of premium gasoline was being sent out of the bond daily. Also, about 20,000 gallons of regular gasoline was being moved out.

On an average daily basis, 50,000 gallons of aviation jet fuel, 4,000 gallons of kerosene and 25,000 gallons of gas oil were being sent out as well. In addition, about 150,000 pounds of cooking gas (LPG) was also being taken out.

But on the question of cooking gas, since there is a labour dispute with one of the distributors, Aziz Ahamad, members of the protective services are reported to be bottling 20-pound cylinders at the contractors' Cunupia bottling depot.

OWTU 'No' to Texaco Offer

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jun 84 p 1

[Article by Suzanne Morris]

[Text] Texaco (Trinidad) Incorporated has made a three-year wage offer to its workers but this has been rejected by the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) as being too small to even consider.

The three-year offer was changed from the company's previous position of five percent over one year. It is the only issue on which the company has changed its offer.

After seven hours of discussions, presided over by the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Mr Errol Mahabir, at the Riverside Plaza, Port of Spain, the parties are still to reach agreement on a number of outstanding issues.

At the end of yesterday's talks, Texaco's General Manager, Mr Lloyd Austin, said he was disturbed at the trend being taken.

"I am disturbed. I'm not encouraged by what has happened," he said in a brief statement.

He said the company went into talks prepared to make a three-year offer. They made increase offers in terms of dollars and cents with the lowest being 75 cents an hour in the first year. Mr Austin could not recall the highest offer made.

Texaco is still insisting that an independent arbitrator be appointed to rule on the issue of the eight dismissed workers.

OWTU's acting President General, Mr Errol McLeod, said that "absolutely nothing was accomplished" during yesterday's lengthy discussions.

Report to Workers

Mr McLeod said, "All the company did was commit itself to a three-year agreement. They have not made an offer that we would want to talk about."

On the re-instatement issue, he said that the company had brought no evidence that could be used to take action against the eight dismissed workers.

Earlier in the day the union leader announced that he had instructed workers to go back to their jobs. This directive came after three weeks of unrest. It was expected that operations at the company's installations would return to normal by Monday but after the talks this remained uncertain.

Mr McLeod said he would report back to the workers on what had taken place but could not say how they would react.

He declared: "Texaco does not care about Trinidad and Tobago. The sooner they are kicked out the sooner we will have peace."

Labour Minister Errol Mahabir confirmed that the two major issues remained unresolved. He explained that the company put forward a three-year proposal.

Negotiable

They are offering the addition of COLA to existing salary. In addition to this, they are offering their hourly workers an average of 7.2 to 7.5 percent in the first year. In the second and third years they have offered three percent.

Weekly workers have been offered 5.6 to 6.3 percent in the first year with three percent in the second and third years.

Texaco has indicated that their offer is negotiable.

OWTU remained adamant about its demand for 50 percent over three years.

According to the Minister, the other "burning" issue, the dismissals, has been complicated by the arrest of two of these workers.

The two have been charged with malicious damage and possession of an offensive weapon and have been taken to court to answer the charges.

At the end of the discussions he said, "It is not for me to express disappointment. My job is to find a solution. Today what we did was to get detailed information on certain issues from both parties. We would like the parties to commit themselves to meaningful negotiations."

Talks will resume at 3 p.m. on Monday at Riverside Plaza.

CSO: 3298/878

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HITS WEST'S SHORT-TERM 'PALLIATIVES' ON DEBTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 May 84 p 1

[Text] The concept of "import less, export more" as a solution to the US\$350 billion foreign debt problem facing Latin American countries has been rejected as a fallacy by Mr Christopher Thomas, acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

He made this point yesterday during the opening session of a technical meeting of the Inter-American Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs (CEPCIES) at Riverside Plaza, Port of Spain.

Trinidad and Tobago is hosting the two-day meeting which is being attended by delegates from Jamaica, Barbados, the United States, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile and Peru.

Mr Thomas, who is chairman of the meeting, said: "the overwhelming level of Latin American foreign debt, now estimated at some US\$250 billion, and the obvious impossibility of servicing the debt under the present circumstances threaten the entire financial structure of the Western Hemisphere.

"The frantic efforts on the part of the international financial institutions and the Western industrialised countries to forestall any default on the debt are evidence of the gravity of the crisis."

Mr Thomas described recent rescheduling of some countries' foreign loans and continuing efforts to obtain rescheduling of others as "merely short-term palliatives that do little or nothing to correct the fundamental imbalance that afflict the countries of the region."

According to Mr Thomas, U.S. officials have repeatedly acknowledged that co-operation between developed and developing countries is a "sine qua non" for the resolution of the debt problem and had warned that the introduction of protectionist measures on the part of the U.S. industry and the U.S. Congress during the recent recession could only bring about a worsening of the situation and a risk of retaliatory trade war.

Wider Interest

He continued: "It is recognised that the U.S. trade authorities have a responsibility to their own manufacturers, but they, too, have a wider interest in the preservation of free trade in the region without which the chances for regional economic and political stability are remote."

Mr Thomas explained that the U.S. Department of Commerce had, over the last two years, conducted a record number of anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations. OAS member states were particularly affected by this action.

"In 1982, Trinidad was faced, for the first time, with simultaneous CVD and dumping investigations of its steel wire rod exports. As a small, developing country, exporting a product that constituted less than one percent of the U.S. market in the particular commodity, we were astonished to be the subject of such a petition and certainly had a little experience in fighting it."

The Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) is one of several Latin American and Caribbean companies against which countervailing duty cases had been filed with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

CSO: 3298/880

BRIEFS

TELCO, TEXTEL FUNDING--"CONSIDERABLE progress," has been reported in negotiations between two State-owned utilities--Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco) and the Trinidad and Tobago External Telecommunications Limited (Textel) for a new traffic revenue sharing agreement. Consequently, both parties have requested a two-week extension to a 90-day ultimatum handed to them by the Ministry of State Enterprises to come up with the accord or have one imposed upon them by the Ministry. The 90 days expires today and, according to an official source, neither party is really keen on having the Ministry dictate how the money should be divided. The source said yesterday: "Although considerable progress has been made there are several thorny issues still to be thrashed out, but given the prevailing spirit at the negotiations, we are convinced an extension to the 90-day deadline would produce positive results." Asked what the "thorny issues" were, the source said the first related to the percentage sharing of the revenue. At the moment, Telco gets 35 per cent of money earned on all external telephone calls while Textel receives the remaining 65 per cent. This is irking the Telco outfit which is claiming the majority percentage (upward 50 per cent), its case being advanced by the almost one billion dollars being spent on expanding and improving its service. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 84 p 1]

TELCO LOANS--TRINIDAD and Tobago Telephone Company Ltd. (Telco) will sign two loan agreements this morning for \$230 million--the biggest loan ever negotiated on the local financial market. Signing will take place at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Port of Spain. A consortium of local banks and insurance companies is involved in the deal which will primarily finance Telco's plans for the work on outside plant facilities, including payments to contractors for construction cables, ducts and manholes, plus money for landing costs for equipment. Guarantor for the record-breaking deal, the Government, will be represented by Minister of State Enterprises Ronnie Williams, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Frank Barsotti and Central Bank Governor Victor Bruce. This second loan, according to Dr Neilson Mackay, Telco's Executive Director, will be used for purchasing private automatic systems for government offices, repayment of outstanding debts to the Orion Bank of London, and development of rural telephone systems in this country. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 May 84 p 1]

SUGAR SHORTFALL--STATE-OWNED Caroni (1975) Limited has experienced a short fall of almost 10,000 tons in its 1984 sugar crop. The company was programmed to

produce 76,350 tonnes of sugar from 950,000 tonnes of canes. After the boiling-off operations last weekend, the sugar production figure was given as 66,504 tonnes from 879,289 tonnes of canes. The company, according to a spokesman, put the blame for the shortfall on three factors: Adverse weather conditions at the start of harvesting, unplanned fires and declining cane yields. In the area of declining yield, the company is planning to replant about 5,000 acres. Caroni is to export all the 66,504 tonnes of sugar. Already the company has made three shipments to the United States and three to the European Common Market. Cane farmers reaped all of their canes and in fact went about 10,000 tonnes above their estimate of 295,000 tonnes. The company harvested all its crops. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 84 p 6]

PROPOSAL FOR 'NATIONAL PARTY'--"PROPOSAL for a National Party" has been included in the agenda when the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago convenes its first county convention next month. A release signed by Alliance administrative secretary Alloy Lequay stated yesterday that the proposal was among three items listed on the debate. The other items are reports from the county councils and party organisation and finance. Lequay said the Alliance had planned a series of county conventions to be held from May to July. The first convention will be held in County Victoria at a venue to be announced on May 13. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 84 p 4]

NJAC COMMEMORATION--THE National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) said it has lost a number of its members in the 12 years following the state of emergency declared in April 1970. In a release from the committee's chairman, Jawara Mobota, the NJAC said the process by which all of its senior leaders were incarcerated and hundreds of its second line leadership harassed by the establishment during the state of emergency, continued and in some cases intensified over the following 12 years. "During this time we lost a number of our brothers and sisters through one process of elimination or another," said Mobota. He said what was important during those years was that the movement not only resisted all efforts to accommodate it within the system, but maintained a persistent and consistent philosophical line up to the present time, with its objective being a society based on man. In looking back at this period, the NJAC will be commemorating April 21, 1970, the day on which the state of emergency was declared, by holding a "Family Day" at the committee's headquarters at 48 Hermitage Road, Gonzales, tomorrow at 2 p.m. The programme will feature a pictorial display of the committee's activities, a film on its participation in the 1981 general election and one on labour leader Tubal Uriah Buzz Butler. There will also be addresses by NJAC's political leader, Makandal Daaga and other officers of the committee. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 84 p 1]

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